

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Diane Hill and I am a resident of North Kingstown. I strongly support the passage and implementation of H7782 The Clean Heat Standard for Rhode Island. This well-thought out and systematic plan requiring HVAC suppliers to gradually phase out fossil fuels will move Rhode Island forward in achieving the goals of the Act on Climate.

I am the grandmother of two young children growing up here in Rhode Island. In my opinion, preventing the most catastrophic (and irreversible) impacts of the climate crisis is the most urgent and important responsibility our society currently bears. Scientists tell us that climate conditions for future generations depend on actions that we take now.

A Clean Heat Standard (CHS), such as those already adopted by both Colorado and Vermont, is a mandate on heating suppliers who sell gas, oil, or propane. A CHS does not require homeowners or businesses to make any particular clean heat choices. A well-designed CHS can evenly distribute the expenses of the building decarbonization transition over the next 26 years and serve as a crucial funding source to complement existing energy efficiency and electrification initiatives. It will also generate additional employment opportunities in the clean energy sector.

Your leadership in passing this legislation will assist our state in implementing the Act on Climate. I believe that time is of the essence in our battle to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, I very much appreciate your leadership in prioritizing the Clean Heat Standard for Rhode Island.

Sincerely,
Diane Hill
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