

Caroly Shumway, Ph.D.
16 Jencks Rd, Cumberland, RI 02864
March 20, 2024

Re: Support for House Bill H7782 – The Clean Heat Standards Act

Dear Chair Bennett and members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Caroly Shumway. I am a resident of Cumberland, RI. I am writing in strong support of House Bill 7782, the Clean Heat Standard Act. I am deeply concerned about climate change for my children's sake. I'm sure you also care deeply about the future for our children too. We need immediate action on climate change *because later is too late*.

Rhode Island lacks a comprehensive policy to address building sector emissions (which comprise 30% of RI emissions) in line with the Act on Climate. This bill would help. The bill would incentivize the change from fossil-fuel services to electric by requiring heating suppliers such as gas utilities and oil and propane dealers to provide customers with gradually increasing percentages of clean heat services. Over time, the number of credits each heating provider would be required to obtain would increase in accordance with the Act on Climate's greenhouse gas reduction mandate of 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 and net-zero by 2050.

RI pledged to have heat pumps make up 65% of HVAC sales by 2030 and 90% by 2040. This bill's Clean Heat Standard would help us get there. Specifically, a Clean Heat Standard (CHS) requires Providers to obtain a certain amount of "Clean Heat Credits", which would be generated by deploying "clean heat measures" such as heat pumps, energy efficiency, clean district energy, weatherization, and other verified low-carbon options.

An advantage of the bill is that it does not require consumers to make any particular clean heat choice; the mandate is on the heating suppliers to do so.

Such a Clean Heat Standard for Rhode Island would:

- Create a sustainable funding mechanism for electrification; and
- Increase equity in clean heat for low-and-moderate income communities by requiring that 40% of the clean heat credits be delivered to low-and-moderate income consumers.

At our home, we are doing our part, converting as much of our house as we can to electric. We bought an induction stove last year, and absolutely love it. In addition to boiling water faster than any gas stove, our indoor air is cleaner now. We also bought an electric dryer, and will put in mini-splits next year. We put in solar panels last year.

I hope you will do your part too. By supporting this bill, you will be helping all Rhode Islanders do our part in reducing carbon emissions, critical for making the world better for future generations. Our future is in your hands.

I respectfully urge the Committee and full General Assembly to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,

Dr. Caroly Shumway
Cumberland, RI