

Dear Chair Bennett and members of the Committee, My name is George Voutes and I am a resident of Bristol, RI. I am writing to express my strong support for the Clean Heat Standard Act.

Given that:

- Buildings make up almost 30% of RI's GHG emissions
- The Act on Climate mandates RI reduce emissions 45% 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

We need a macro-policy that enables us to install the amount of heat pumps necessary to meet these targets and achieve the Act on Climate. A Clean Heat Standard (CHS) does just that by requiring heating suppliers such as gas utilities and oil and propane dealers to provide customers with gradually increasing percentages of clean heat services, phasing out the sale of fossil fuels. Providers would be required 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. Over time, the number of credits each heating provider would be required to obtain would increase in line with the Act on Climate's greenhouse gas reduction mandate of 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 and net-zero by 2050.

Benefits of a Clean Heat Standard for Rhode Island:

- Creates a sustainable funding mechanism for electrification
- Does not require consumers to make any particular clean heat choices – mandate is on the heating suppliers
- Equity can be built in – the bill requires that 40% of the clean heat credits be delivered to low- and moderate income consumers
- Rhode Island would follow learnings from larger markets – Vermont & Colorado have adopted a CHS. Massachusetts is currently creating a CHS through regulation.

The heat blanket covering our state is intensifying. RI is one of the fast warming states in the country and we need to accelerate the transition to heat pumps quickly. I have personally transitioned to heat pumps in my home and they work great. In the summer they provide efficient cooling and in the winter very nice and quiet heat. Many new jobs are possible when more homes and businesses convert to heat pumps.

In order to achieve the Act on Climate, we must implement macro-policy's that drive the transition toward electrification. A Clean Heat Standard is just that.

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

George Voutes

Bristol, RI