

House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Representative David Bennett, Chair
Rhode Island House of Representatives

SUPPORT FOR H7782 - Clean Heat Standard Act

March 21, 2024

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joel Gates. I am a resident of Glocester, RI and a member of Climate Action Rhode Island. I am testifying in strong support of the Clean Heat Standard Act.

In order for Rhode Island to meet the goals of the Act on Climate, we need to reduce our use of fossil fuels for heating our buildings. H7782 will help us get to the Act on Climate goals. I know there will be resistance from fossil fuel providers and it won't be easy, but this is a transition that must happen! Transforming our heating systems is of utmost importance and will benefit all of us long term.

I have had heat pumps as my sole heat source for over 10 years. I have had no problems and they work in our coldest weather. There is a lot of misinformation circulating questioning their effectiveness in the cold. That is not the case. Mine work just fine even on the coldest days. Heat pump technology is improving constantly and the systems are being installed in the State of Maine on a regular basis!

Part of the problem with heat pump adoption is the high upfront cost. With generous rebate programs, Rhode Island can get this done. Consumers will see a financial benefit in the long-term as electricity prices are much more stable than those of fossil fuels. Of course the environmental benefit will serve us all!

Please pass H7782 out of committee and support its passage in the full House. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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