



March 21, 2024

Testimony of Leslie Anderson

Before the **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Re: H 7782 The Rhode Island Clean Heat Standard Act

Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Leslie Anderson and I represent the Propane Gas Association of New England. We are an alternative energy trade association operating in the six New England states and we represent twenty five Rhode Island propane companies.

I am here today in opposition to H 7782 - The Rhode Island Clean Heat Standard Act and H 7617 An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Building Decarbonization Act of 2024.

We are concerned that these bills entirely ignore low carbon liquid fuels and other ways to lower emissions besides electric heat pumps, and we believe that propane should be promoted by Rhode Island because it helps the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Combustion fuels are not all the same and propane should be part of your climate solution. Propane is not methane and not a greenhouse gas, it is a beneficial by-product left over from natural gas processing and if we don't use it for energy, it is simply wasted. In fact, every year since its discovery more propane has been produced each year than has been used.

In 2022, 83% of bulk power in RI came from burning natural gas. Conventional propane that is used today has a carbon intensity (CI) score of only 77, compared to 135 for RI grid electricity. **So, if you replace a propane system today with electricity, you end up increasing greenhouse gas emissions.** And if you are thinking, well electricity will be cleaner than propane in the future, I beg to differ. Our industry continues to innovate, and renewable propane, which is derived from sources, such as used cooking oils, plants, recycled plastic water bottles, and trash, has an even lower CI score of 21, and with blends we can get to net zero emissions.

Propane is cleaner than electricity today, and we believe propane will continue to stay cleaner as renewable blends are added in larger amounts. We encourage the state to consider how to incentivize propane and renewable propane so that low carbon liquid fuels are included as they should be in any climate bills. Increasing the use of propane decreases greenhouse gas emissions.

Rhode Island needs a diverse energy mix. Propane is the perfect partner for wind and solar because it is portable, clean, affordable, a waste byproduct, and critical for energy security. When the electricity goes out more and more RI citizens rely on propane generators for backup power to meet medical needs. Propane powers cell phone towers when power is out, and more and more propane is being used to power electric vehicle charging and rescue electric vehicles on the road with mobile portable propane generator electric vehicle charging units. And when propane charges an electric vehicle, there are fewer

greenhouse gases than using grid electricity. Around the globe, propane is used to provide clean energy for cooking and heat to move people from solid fuels like wood, charcoal, and animal dung. We are improving health and safety, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and preventing deforestation. I encourage the committee to consider how propane can complement RI's clean heat strategy and provide critical energy security to the state while lowering emissions.

Thank you for your consideration.