

Peter Trafton MD, Providence, RI
Written testimony in favor of 8043
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, March 21, 2024

Dear Chair Bennett and Honorable Committee Members,

I write to support passage of Bill 8043 regarding state agency emissions reporting. However, I must point out some concerns.

It is certainly important that all our state agencies, not only the EC4 Members but the non-members as well, understand what they can and must do to further our efforts to reduce Rhode Island's greenhouse gas emissions, and to achieve a just socio-economic transition. Their specific plans should be clear and transparent. They must present their results, their progress, as well.

The bill seems to focus primarily on an individual agency's energy consumption and its own internal GHG emissions. However, many agencies deal with policies and practices that reach beyond their office walls, and affect the emissions of our businesses, communities, and families. Shouldn't these emissions be identified, evaluated, and reported as well, for each agency?

The Act on Climate includes many other aspects of the state's response to climate change, well beyond emissions reduction. It also indicates that all our state agencies share these responsibilities. Shouldn't these non-emissions needs be monitored and reported as well?

Perhaps line 13 could be clearer: Each state agency's plan shall be aligned with the most recent EC4 annual report promulgated pursuant to § 42-6.2-7. I'm unsure what "alignment" means, and I believe that the AoC calls for 5-year reports from the EC4, not annual.

Finally, 8043 follows the 5-year reporting schedule for agency reports. I would urge that the agencies should report annually. There is some urgency to our efforts, and many things can be "left until later" with a long interval.

Thanks for considering my input. I'm very grateful for the work you are doing. Good luck with this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Trafton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter Trafton