

Testimony in support of H.B. 5167 The Rhode Island **Clean Heat Standard Act**  
Corinna-Barbara Francis  
61 Colonial Rd Providence, RI 02906

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To Chair Bennett and the honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I strongly support H5167 as an effective and equitable approach to reducing our GHG in the state of RI. It incentivizes and requires utility companies to gradually shift away from fossil fuel delivery and provides a gradual path to moving our energy consumption away from fossil fuels

Clean Heat Standards provide a performance standard that requires 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. In doing so, they provide a fair and effective framework for gradually moving our energy use away from the use of fossil fuels -- without placing the burden on consumers nor imposing any particular energy system choice onto individual consumers. By requiring energy providers to gradually increase the percentage of their sales away from fossil fuels, a CHS provides a systemic approach to reducing GHGs that will enable RI to reach the Act on Climate's greenhouse gas reduction mandate of 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 and net-zero by 2050.

Clean Heat Standards also provide a more robust funding mechanism than currently in place in RI. Currently, the state energy efficiency program is funded by surcharges on electricity and natural gas, with fuel oil customers not contributing. This distorts the incentive structure to encourage consumers to move away from fuel oil towards electrification and also does not provide adequate funding.

Further equity can be designed into the system by requiring an appropriate fraction of the clean heat services to be delivered to low-and-moderate-income consumers.

For these reasons I strongly support this bill and urge the Committee to pass it and bring it to the floor of the House.

Sincerely,  
Corinna-Barbara Francis