



February 6, 2025

Representative David A. Bennet  
Chair, House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02908

**Re: The Nature Conservancy Supports H 5167 to Establish the Clean Heat Standard**

The Nature Conservancy **supports** House Bill 5167, which would establish the Rhode Island Clean Heat Standard. We thank Representatives Cortvriend, Speakman, Carson, McGaw, Boylan, Handy, Kislak, Bennett, and Phillips for introducing it.

The Nature Conservancy is a global organization dedicated to protecting the land and waters on which all life depends. We have chapters in all fifty U.S. states and in nearly 80 countries around the globe. Here in Rhode Island, we steward more than 14,000 acres of protected land and protect an additional 35,000 acres with partner organizations.

At The Nature Conservancy, we realize that we cannot succeed in our core mission without seriously addressing climate change. This includes adaptation to a changing climate as well as reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate further impacts of climate change. Rhode Island has clear, enforceable greenhouse gas emission reductions outlined in the 2021 Act on Climate, ultimately requiring 100% decarbonization economy-wide by 2050.

According to the 2022 Act on Climate Update Report prepared by the EC4, the thermal sector (residential heating, commercial heating, industry, and natural gas distribution) is responsible for 38.8% of total emissions in Rhode Island. Almost 20% of total emissions are from residential heating, totaling over 2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide.

This legislation would provide a pathway to move the heating sector away from fossil fuel infrastructure, and towards cleaner alternatives such as heat pumps. Electrification of the thermal sector in combination with large-scale renewable energy adoption is vital to meeting our climate mandates. We are also supportive of weatherization being included in the clean heat definition. Energy efficiency and ensuring our existing building stock is well insulated and ready for clean energy retrofits is critical.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. We are always available to answer any questions.

The Nature  
Conservancy  
Rhode Island



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Tuoni".

Angela Tuoni  
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The Nature Conservancy  
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