



**Representative Bennett, Chair**

House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

**March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Oppose House Bill 5846**

Dear Chair Bennett and members of the committee,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, **I write in opposition of House Bill 5846 as currently written.** This bill seeks to put a moratorium on adopting a new International Energy Efficiency Code until 2030 unless otherwise approved by the General Assembly.

**Rhode Island Needs Strong Building Codes to Achieve Climate Goals**

Green Energy Consumers Alliance recognizes the concern felt by many industry participants that the next IECC – 2027 IECC - will be less energy efficient than the 2024 IECC due to federal level policy goals. However, we are in opposition to the moratorium language proposed because of the potential that the 2027 IECC would be more energy efficient than the 2024 IECC. Proposing a moratorium that can only be addressed via another bill would create unnecessary delay to adopting a more efficient code in the period the moratorium would be in place.

Green Energy Consumers Alliance has worked with the U.S. Green Buildings Council to develop alternative language that could be added to H5846 that would allow the adoption of the 2027 IECC only after a determination by an eligible agency that the 2027 IECC is more efficient than the current 2024 IECC. We favor this language over the current language in H5846 because it would allow for an easier adoption of the 2027 IECC if it were found to be more efficient than the current code after that determination is made. While we acknowledge the goal in the current language to prevent the energy code from backsliding, requiring approval from the General Assembly to adopt a new energy code has the potential to slow the adoption process down.

**Adopting New Energy Codes on Track is Important**

International Energy Conservation Codes (IECC) are typically written sequentially, with each code building off the prior code and adoption of these codes on the same timeline that they are released is important in ensuring the learning curve with a new code is not more difficult than necessary. The language proposed in H5846 would prevent the adoption of the 2027 IECC unless otherwise approved by the General Assembly and that would result in needing to pursue adoption of this code through additional legislation. The current [state energy conservation code](#) requires adoption of the next IECC within three months of its release which is intended to keep Rhode Island up to date with new codes and indicate that the state is striving to only get more energy efficient in building codes over time.

**Conclusion**

To achieve the Act on Climate, we must implement larger policies that drive down emissions from the building sector. Ensuring that our state building code is up to date and incorporates the newest energy efficiency standards is necessary for building emissions reductions. Building codes play a significant role in training the workforce to strong energy codes and demonstrating that Rhode Island is and will continue to be a leader in this space. Staying aware of the development and energy efficiency measures that will be in the 2027 IECC is necessary so that Rhode Island can adopt that code if it is more energy efficient than our current 2024 IECC.

Green Energy Consumers Alliance thanks Representative Cortvriend for looking into this issue but urge the Committee to vote against passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Tina Munter, RI Policy Advocate  
**Green Energy Consumers Alliance**  
[Tina@greenenergyconsumers.org](mailto:Tina@greenenergyconsumers.org)