

Testimony in support of H7593: School Funds and Property

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: April 30, 2024, 2024

To Chair Abney and the honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I support the bill because it starts a process of weening existing school buildings off polluting fossil fuels as energy source.

The bill provides a structured approach to develop and adopt regulations requiring all school buildings to meet the standard of zero energy capable by December 31, 2036, which limits delivered (typically fossil fuel based) energy to less or equal to renewable energy generated either on site, or purchased through a power purchase agreement and NE-GIS renewable energy certificates.

The bill can be considered to be a first step to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of existing school buildings by at least 50%, within 14 years.

To make use of the exponential growth trend of renewable energy resources and their equally exponential reduction in cost, it would be wise to go a step further and require "all-electric" (no gas or oil) to be the standard for all new school construction, as the Building Decarbonization Act of 2024 (S2952 / H7617), section 23-27.3-130.3., would do. Continuing to allow new construction with use of fossil fuels would lock the tax payers into avoidable, substantially higher operating and retrofitting cost over the lifetime of the school buildings, and would also let us fall further behind with meeting the Act on Climate greenhouse gas emissions mandates.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2024, waiting any longer will put compliance with the Act on Climate at risk.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Cortvriend for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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