

Testimony in Support of H5450: All-Electric Building Act

Date of Hearing: 3/20/2025

To: Chair Casey and the honorable Members of the Municipal Government and Housing Committee,

I am writing to express my **strong support for H5450, the All-Electric Building Act.**

As someone who's worked in the building industry for over 8 years, I've seen firsthand the tendency for architects and builders to design and build to the lowest acceptable standard. If we didn't have fire codes, we would have a lot more devastating building fires. If we didn't have structural codes, we would have a lot more catastrophic building collapses. It's time to protect people and the environment by raising our standards for the fuel we use to power our lives. It's time for all-electric buildings.

All-electric buildings provide strong economic, environmental, and health benefits, including:

- **Reducing carbon emissions**, which is essential for meeting our currently not-on-track Act on Climate goals in Rhode Island.
- **Reducing infrastructure costs**, since gas mains, services, and meters can be avoided.
- **Reducing system costs** by reducing the need for separate heating and cooling systems.
- **Improving indoor air quality** by eliminating the pollutants coming from natural gas ranges (including nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and formaldehyde).
- **Increasing thermal comfort** by providing more stable temperatures indoors through better technology.
- **Increasing independence from fossil fuel companies**, who have systematically lobbied against the interests of the environment and the public.
- **Increasing stability and resilience** through reliance on regenerative energy sources.

The choice is clear: we need all-electric buildings now.

Thank you,
Emily Totten