



March 20, 2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chairman
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.5450, An Act Relating to Public Property and Works – All-Electric Building Act

Dear Chairman Casey:

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition would like to draw attention to H.5450 An Act Relating to Public Property and Works – All-Electric Building Act. In 2021, the General Assembly passed the Act on Climate, charging the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) with developing a plan for reaching the mandatory greenhouse gas emissions targets outlined in the Act.

In addition, last year the General Assembly tasked the EC4 with recommending approaches to implementing energy benchmarking and performance standards for large public and private buildings. In its final report issued on February 10, the EC4 highlights several issues the Coalition believes are important when considering H.5450.

Among the issues the report raises are the following:

- There is no comprehensive database of large buildings or their current energy sources in the state, and creating such a database of covered buildings would be a time-intensive process.
- The lack of both data on large buildings and infrastructure for automated energy-use reporting prevents the effective evaluation and implementation of statewide benchmarking and performance standards for large municipal and private buildings.
- In contrast, a program applying to certain large state-owned and state-occupied buildings does not hinge on the availability of such data and infrastructure. OER finds that such a program applying to only large state-owned and state-occupied buildings could be implemented beginning as soon as FY26 with just one additional full-time employee.

In addition, ongoing pressures at the federal level regarding offshore wind development making it uncertain of whether and when these projects will come on line to provide alternative energy sources to the region.

We request the Committee hold this bill at this time as the timelines outlined in the legislation will make it extremely difficult to implement in an efficient manner. The EC4 continues its work to implement the Act of Climate and we suggest following their recommendations on the best path forward.

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on H.5450.

Sincerely,

Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

National Federation of Independent Business

Propane Gas Association of New England

Rhode Island Bankers Association

Rhode Island Business Group on Health

Rhode Island Hospitality Association

Rhode Island Manufacturers Association

Rhode Island Marine Trade Association

Rhode Island Staffing Association

Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Committee

Small Business Economic Summit Tax and Budget Committee

cc. House Municipal Government and Housing Committee members