

Testimony in support of H5450: All-Electric Building Act

Rhys Johnstone, Westerly, RI 02891

Date of Hearing: March 20th, 2025

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

My name is Rhys Johnstone, I am resident of Westerly, RI, and I am writing today in **strong support of H5450**. As a resident of Westerly, I am deeply concerned about the future of our environment.

According to a report from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, buildings contribute significantly to Rhode Island's total greenhouse gas emissions. In 2022, residential, commercial, and industrial buildings were responsible for 35.2% of emissions in the state. This shows the urgent need to reduce emissions from these sectors. With the RI Act on Climate calling for a sharp decrease in GHG emissions in the state, it is imperative that we begin to take action in reducing GHG emissions of our buildings. Moving towards all-electric buildings will help meet the goals outlined in the RI Act on Climate.

Electrification, while working to reduce GHG emissions, will also help save Rhode Islanders money over time. According to a report from the Rocky Mountain Institute, "electrification of space and water heating and air conditioning reduces the homeowner's costs over the lifetime of the appliances when compared with performing the same functions with fossil fuels".¹ Moving towards all-electric buildings will help homeowners and businesses save money on HVAC and hot water, allowing Rhode Islanders to keep more money in their pockets.

As we face both economic challenges and the growing threat of climate change, it is crucial that we act now. I urge you to bring H5450 to a vote in 2025 to ensure that Rhode Island stays on track to meet its climate goals and provides financial relief to its residents.

Please bring this bill to a vote in 2025.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rhys Johnstone

March 19, 2025

Westerly, RI 02891

1. Billimoria, Sherri, et al. "The Economics of Electrifying Buildings." *Rocky Mountain Institute*, 12 June 2023, rmi.org/insight/the-economics-of-electrifying-buildings/.