



Advancing the Clean Energy Future

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Senate Environment and Agriculture
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Acadia Center Support of S2541 State Agency Emission Reporting

Dear Chairperson DiMario and members of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee:

Acadia Center appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill S2541 requiring State Agency Emission Reporting. Acadia Center is a non-profit research and advocacy organization committed to advancing the clean energy future.

The Act on Climate requires statewide emissions reductions of 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, 80% by 2040, and net-zero emissions by 2050. While the act grants state agencies with the oversight and authority to meet this greenhouse gas reduction mandate, the act does not require that state agencies measure and report on agency-specific emissions. In section § 42-6.2-3, state agencies are directed to lead by example through the purchase of lower emission vehicles and by encouraging state employees to reduce their vehicle miles traveled, as well as to implement programs to achieve energy savings in state and municipal buildings.

While additional lead by example efforts have been pursued by administrative and executive officials, legislators, and advocates, programs have not been uniformly implemented across agencies and rarely result in reports on performance or emissions. The creation of a template for state agencies to track their climate emissions and report on energy, fleet, and other emission reduction programs would help to unify the state's efforts to lead by example on climate. Tracking emissions data across state agencies would help capture best practices for the implementation of the Act on Climate across the state and ideally spur capacity and resources towards the state's lead by example efforts.

Acadia Center would also flag the need to establish additional capacity within state government in order to identify, collect, and calculate the emissions of each state agency. Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions under the control of the agency such as heating and transportation. Scope 2 emissions typically account for indirect emissions from the sourcing of energy externally. Scope 3 emissions are the most complex to track as they account for the indirect emissions of the agency's upstream (i.e. sourcing, supply chain) and downstream (i.e. end-of-life) activities. Building up this technical expertise within state government will help inform and support the needed expansion of emission reporting capacity across the state.

Sincerely,

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