[Date]

[Name of Representative or Senator]

**RE: [State] Needs a Clean Heat Standard**

Dear ,

I’m writing as a climate-conscious citizen concerned to urge you to consider supporting a **Clean Heat Standard (CHS)** to help curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in our state.

Combustion emissions from residential and commercial buildings account for 12.5% of total GHG emissions nationally.[[1]](#footnote-1) A CHS policy would reduce emissions from fossil fuels combusted to heat homes and businesses by incentivizing the adoption of lower emissions fuels and technologies like electrification and cold-air heat pumps, and low carbon biofuels such as renewable natural gas (RNG).

Critically, a CHS policy can support direct and indirect, near- and long-term strategies for reducing GHG emissions overall. Many biofuels are made from wastes which otherwise would go to landfills and leak methane—the second most abundant anthropogenic GHG after CO2, and 80-times more potent than CO2 at trapping heat in the atmosphere. According to the US EPA and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, significantly reducing methane emissions would have a rapid and significant effect in mitigating the impacts of climate change.[[2]](#footnote-2),[[3]](#footnote-3)

Renewable natural gas is made by directly capturing methane from decomposing organic wastes (at landfills, wastewater treatment plant and livestock farms), which keeps this potent GHG out of the atmosphere. On a life-cycle basis, RNG can be carbon-neutral or even carbon-negative.[[4]](#footnote-4)[[5]](#footnote-5) This makes it an important decarbonization strategy—not just as a drop-in substitute for conventional natural gas that is available right now, but in the longer term for gas-fueled applications which prove difficult to electrify.

A CHS should include the development of biofuels, such as RNG, to help immediately decrease emissions from our existing fossil fuel infrastructure, while promoting development of other decarbonizing heating technologies such as electrification and cold-climate heat pumps.

Our state would benefit greatly from a well-rounded Clean Heat Standard that considers both short- and long-term decarbonization strategies and how best to utilize complimentary technologies to achieve short- and long-term climate goals. I urge you to support the adoption of a clean heat standard as a part of our state’s decarbonization strategy.

Sincerely,

[Name]

1. [US EPA, “Inventory of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, 1990-2020.”](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-04/us-ghg-inventory-2022-main-text.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. US EPA, “[Importance of Methane](https://www.epa.gov/gmi/importance-methane).” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [IPCC, “Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change.”](file:///Users/racheldfranco/Desktop/IPCC,%20) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Life cycle analysis measures *all* emissions associated with a fuel, from its extraction/production through its end use. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The [GREET tool developed by the Department of Energy’s Argonne National Laboratory](https://greet.es.anl.gov/greet.models) shows RNG to provide GHG emissions reductions ranging from 30% to over 300%, depending on feedstock. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)