The Act On Climate 2020 bill (The Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2020) will require Rhode Island to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 100% by 2050. Act On Climate will bring RI into line with the mandatory, enforceable greenhouse gas emission reductions already in place in neighboring Massachusetts and Connecticut.

BACKGROUND: THE RESILIENT RHODE ISLAND ACT OF 2014

Climate activists worked hard to urge enactment of the Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014. This was the state’s first-ever comprehensive climate bill, calling for reductions of carbon emissions of 45% by 2035 and 80% by 2050 below 1990 levels. Unfortunately, the carbon emission reduction goals in the Resilient Rhode Island Act are out of date and just aspirational goals, lacking accountability and transparency.

ACT ON CLIMATE 2020: WHAT’S NEW?

It’s time to update the Resilient Rhode Island Act of 2014, and the Act On Climate 2020 bill does that in two important ways:

- Updates our climate targets in accordance with the latest science regarding what is needed to avert climate disaster, setting the 2035 mandate at a 50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the 2050 mandate at a 100% reduction
- It requires accountability and transparency by making the state’s carbon emission reductions legally binding; and if the state fails to follow the law, it can be enforced.

ACTION ON CLIMATE 2020: SHORT, SIMPLE, & DIRECT

Act On Climate 2020 is a very short, simple bill. It puts Rhode Island on a path toward net-zero emissions by 2050, which is what the current science tells us we need to do. It also requires transparency and accountability, by making our targets legally binding and enforceable. Massachusetts enacted its Global Warming Solutions Act in 2008, and it’s working. Rhode Island is now more than a decade behind Massachusetts, and it is time to catch up.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Contact the Governor, your State Senator and State Representative (https://vote.sos.ri.gov/), as well as the Speaker of the House and Senate President, and encourage them to support the Act On Climate 2020 bill (H-7399; S-2165).