

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Hannah Morini <hm@green-ri.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 12:44 PM  
**To:** House Corporations Committee  
**Cc:** HENRY BOENIGER  
**Subject:** HB 6066

Hon. Joseph Solomon Jr

State House  
Smith St.  
Providence RI 02903

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 6066. This bill was important 2 years ago when the Senate passed an almost identical version, but it's even more crucial now due to the recent announcement of National Grid selling Narragansett Electric to PPL. National Grid's successor, PPL, must come into Rhode Island fully aware of the importance of renewable energy to the future of our local economy and local environment. We as a state should demand a transparent, predictable, cost-effective, and reliable utility company.

This bill updates a law passed in 2016 which attempted to force National Grid to a higher standard in interconnecting renewable energy projects. The utility company has found and exploited loopholes in the current law in order to delay and price gauge projects that do not meet their corporate goals. The process of interconnecting renewable energy is not subject to independent oversight and the company is seldom subject to consequences for inhibiting the State's energy goals. The utility company overseeing renewable interconnection without independent oversight can be likened to a fox guarding a henhouse. This bill would create an independent ombudsperson to oversee the process between the utility company and renewable energy projects attempting to interconnect to the Grid.

Two years ago, the PUC opposed this bill on the grounds that the proposed changes could be remedied at the regulatory level. That process began in July of 2019 as Docket 5077 and has produced few of the proposed changes, and zero of the truly crucial changes, much to our frustration. We attended every working group meeting along with our industry partners who also invested significant amounts of time into the regulatory process.

Green Development has multiple examples of wind and solar projects being relentlessly delayed by National Grid's perpetually changing rules, standards, and price structures. This bill closes loopholes and ensures a transparent predictable process. The passage of HB 6066 is vital to the local renewable energy industry. I am happy to discuss specifics and answer questions at any time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hannah Morini

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