

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Hannah Morini <hm@green-ri.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 5, 2021 11:31 AM  
**To:** House Corporations Committee  
**Cc:** HENRY BOENIGER  
**Subject:** HB 6169

Hon. Joseph Solomon Jr

State House  
Smith St.  
Providence RI 02903

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing to oppose House bill 6169. This bill is a misguided attempt to force renewable energy projects onto more expensive locations while ignoring the fundamentals of economics and municipal sovereignty.

While Green Development does not oppose the siting of projects in the locations specified in the proposed legislation, we strongly feel it should not prohibit projects over 10 MW from being sited on contiguous properties.

This bill is not encouraging renewable energy to be located on disturbed areas. This bill is making renewable energy more expensive in the places where it is currently the most cost-effective. If the State truly values solar on landfills/brownfield/disturbed areas, then those sites need to be incentivized properly to reflect those values. At present, a project located on a landfill gets paid the same \$/kWh as a project located on a wooded lot. The difference is that a landfill solar project costs at least twice as much to develop. On non-compromised sites, forcing large projects to split onto separate project sites drives up costs in every aspect of the project. Economies of scale are crucial to meet the State's aggressive green energy goals in the race against climate change. Renewable energy is constantly competing with fossil fuels on cost and this bill would provide a major setback.

Every City and Town should be able to determine where renewable energy should be located within their community. For example, the Town of North Smithfield implemented a solar overlay district and a restrictive solar ordinance to encourage solar concentrated in one area rather than fragmented throughout their community. This bill would undermine efforts made by Towns like North Smithfield. Splitting a 30 MW project into 3 separate projects on separate parcels would actually cause more forest fragmentation than concentrating solar in one area. Lastly, there are currently many projects representing hundreds of millions of dollars of investments made by local Rhode Island renewable energy companies and local financial institutions. These projects are either under construction or have full approvals that could be put in jeopardy because of this bill.

Your consideration to defeat this bill is appreciated.

Thank you,

Hannah Morini

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