

Rhode Island House of Representatives
Members of the House Corporations Committee
Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chair

March 7, 2024

Testimony in support of H7353

Dear Chair Solomon and Committee Members:

I am writing to urge you to pass H7353, the resolution requesting Rhode Island Energy in conjunction with the Public Utilities Commission to submit a proposal for new, multi-year electric vehicle programming. It is abundantly clear that we need to accelerate Rhode Island's adoption of electric vehicles if we hope to meet the emissions reduction goals mandated by Rhode Island's 2021 Act on Climate law. As you may recall, the Act on Climate requires Rhode Island to reduce its total greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2040 (relative to 1990)—and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. However, a recent assessment of Rhode Island's progress toward these goals by the RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (RIEC4) states that "Rhode Island is not fully on track to meet the Act on Climate's 2030 reduction mandate of 45%," projecting a reduction of only 40%.¹

Transportation is by far Rhode Island's single largest emitting sector, accounting for nearly 40% of emissions. In the transportation sector, meeting the 2030 Act on Climate goal would require reaching an estimated 34% adoption of EVs by 2030.² However, a report put out by RIDOT, RI DMV, and the RI OER in December 2021 showed that EVs made up *less than 1%* of total light-duty vehicles registered in our state.³

We must do everything in our power to increase the adoption of EVs for all residents of Rhode Island. This includes building out appropriate charging infrastructure, particularly for residents of multi-unit dwellings, who currently have no option to charge an EV overnight at their place of residence (the primary and by far most feasible mode of charging for most EV owners). From my own personal experience, I recently lived in multi-unit dwelling where I had to ask my landlord to install a Level 2 charger. I was able to finally switch from a gas car to an EV, but my purchase of that EV was entirely dependent on my landlord's willingness to install that charger. From speaking with others who live in multi-unit dwellings, such situations remain extremely rare.

H7353 would provide crucial make ready and EV charging station incentives across all segments (with greater incentives for low-income individuals), off-peak charging rebates that account for all the benefits of off-peak charging, and programs for pole-mounted chargers. Please pass H7353 to help accelerate the adoption of EVs for *all* Rhode Islanders!

Sincerely,
Alexander Naydich
Providence, RI

Sources

1. "Rhode Island 2022 Climate Update," RI Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council, Dec. 2022.
<https://climatechange.ri.gov/media/1221/download>.
2. "Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan," Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4), Dec. 2016
3. "Electrifying Transportation: A Strategic Policy Guide for Improving Public Access to Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in Rhode Island," RIDOT, RI OER, & RI DMV, Dec. 2021.