



## **In support of H5815: Public Utilities Commission (Intervenor Support Program)**

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

March 20, 2025

Dear Chair Solomon and Committee Members:

The more than 3,500 members of Climate Action Rhode Island (CARI), a grassroots group working to for the just transition to renewable energy systems, strongly support and urge you to pass H5815, the Intervenor Support Program.

It is clear that the utility dominates the proceedings of the PUC and other regulatory boards. They can bring nearly unlimited resources in the form of lawyers, experts, and other staff to prepare and present their testimony. Given the incentives the utility functions under, it often works against the public interest in the here and now, as well as the long-term and necessary goal of reducing our carbon emissions and meeting the Act on Climate benchmarks.

Those seeking to advocate for the public interest incur this cost themselves and usually do not have the resources to participate. This means that their important perspective on the issues in front of the PUC are not represented. Without a diverse set of perspectives the decisions made are not optimal and clearly not equitable.

This leads to three negative outcomes:

First the impact of these policies on the ratepayer is not fully represented and the costs customers bear are higher than they should be.

Second, the utility has been woefully slow in adopting policies and technologies that will support the just and rapid transition to renewable energy. This transition is necessary to meet the legally mandated goals embedded in the Act on Climate. Furthermore, the only way the climate catastrophe is averted is by all entities, including Rhode Island, doing all they can to rapidly reduce achieve this transition.

And third, but also very important, the public is left without a voice which leads to increasing frustration and anger. This has been witnessed at the recent PUC meeting where an overflow crowd loudly and justly presented their anger at the rising energy costs they were bearing and their lack of a seat at the table.

H5815 is an important first step in balancing the power of the utility with effective public input and this will benefit all Rhode Island residents now and in the future.

Please pass H5815 and advocate for it to be brought to a floor vote this session. There is no reason to wait.

Respectively submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey Migneault

Jeff Migneault

Co-President

Climate Action Rhode Island