

Testimony In Support of H5816 (Affordable Clean Energy Security Act)

To Chair Solomon and the Members of the House Corporations Committee:

My name is Diane Hill. I live at 40 Heritage Road in North Kingstown. I strongly support H5816 and urge you to bring this legislation to the floor for a vote.

As the grandmother of two young children growing up in Rhode Island, I am very concerned about their future. The consensus of the global scientific community is that our planet is on the path to major climate disruption. This is not the legacy that I can morally leave to my grandchildren and future generations.

Rhode Island passed The Act on Climate setting goals for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions coming from our state. Increasing the portion of electricity that comes from offshore wind is critical to reach the mandates set out in that legislation. Scientific facts indicate that Rhode Island must procure 1200 MW of offshore wind by 2029. This capacity of electricity from offshore wind, combined with electricity generated from solar, is absolutely essential to achieve the goals set out in Act On Climate and the 100% Renewable Energy Standard.

These goals are achievable. However, the time for talking and delaying action is over. We need immediate action! This is not “business as usual” as global temperatures approach “tipping points”, when the changes in the ecology of the Earth will be permanent and irreversible. And when that happens, no one can accurately predict the cascading impacts on our planet’s ecological system.

Transitioning to clean renewable energy makes sense economically too, considering the the volatile price of fossil fuels. My natural gas heating bills have increased dramatically this winter. From a health perspective, reducing the pollution from burning oil and natural gas will benefit all of our citizens. Marine life will benefit as well, since the warming of the oceans is the biggest threat to their survival.

Please pass H5816 out of committee and bring it to the House floor where it can be passed into law.

Respectfully,
Diane Hill
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