

Testimony in support of H5816: Affordable Clean Energy Security Act

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: April 1, 2025

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

Sourcing a large portion of our electricity from offshore wind is essential for reaching the greenhouse gas emissions reductions mandated by the RI Act on Climate and the goal of our Renewable Energy Standard of 100% renewable electricity by 2033.

There's a lot at stake on the way to 2033: we won't get to 100% renewable electricity unless we secure 1,200 MW of offshore wind by 2029—enough to power nearly half the state. H5816 is how we make that happen, by

- Slashing climate pollution.
- Reducing fossil fuel dependence and reliance on volatile fossil fuel prices.
- Creating good-paying local jobs and growing our local economy
- Cleaner air and improved health for Rhode Island's residents.
- Strengthening our energy independence and improving grid reliability.
- Powering homes through the winter with reliable, renewable electricity.

Without urgent action, our clean energy goals are at risk. We will stay stuck with dirty, expensive fossil fuels—and we might even face pressure to build *new* polluting fossil infrastructure.

With H5816 adding to the 725 MW that are already in operation or under contract, Rhode Island will remain a leader in solar energy.

Offshore wind perfectly complements solar. It is strongest at night and in fall and winter, while solar produces during the day and more during spring and summer. Together, offshore wind and solar can provide a balanced energy mix, and hydro and battery storage will add to it.

Without further offshore wind procurement, Rhode Island risks missing its climate goals, facing grid reliability issues, ongoing high power prices during the winter, and increasing risks to marine life from continued fossil fuel use.

H5816 will let us meet our energy, climate, and economic goals while ensuring grid reliability for the future.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2025.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Handy for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

Mar 30, 2025

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