

## **Testimony in support of H5816: Affordable Clean Energy Security Act**

Peter Trafton, Providence Rhode Island, April 1, 2025

Dear Chair Solomon and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations, I write in the strongest support of House Bill 5816 by Representative Handy and colleagues.

This bill mandates collaborative solicitation for offshore wind energy development projects by RI Energy and the state Office of Energy Resources. It is an essential part of our efforts to combat the climate crisis, because it is by far the best local opportunity for replacing polluting fossil fuels with clean energy, and long-term lower cost.

Presently there are significant obstructions to offshore wind development because of misguided federal policies and powerful sources of public disinformation. Just yesterday, the federally approved SouthCoast Wind Project announced a third delay, instead of executing final contracts as planned.

While the short-term outlook for offshore wind is perilous, general public support remains strong. Very recently, the CEO of ISO New England, our regional electric grid, stressed the essential importance of offshore wind electric power for our expected increasing power demands. This is quite a change from his years of advocacy for more methane ("natural") gas!

Offshore wind offers Rhode Island the future energy we need. There is no other alternative to the major role it must play in our mix of energy resources. Wind power is a proven energy source, and we have abundant wind offshore. The benefits of jobs and economic development are a welcome accompaniment to the reduction of fossil fuel pollution which threatens local public health as well as causing climate change and its environmental disruption.

Please help Rhode Island proceed with offshore wind power development. We need it urgently now to save our environment for future generations of Rhode Islanders. Please pass 5816.

Thanks for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PTrafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with the "P" and "T" being particularly prominent.

Peter Trafton