

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chairman, House Corporations Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

**RE: H-6085 – Relating to Public Utilities & Carriers – Net Metering**

Dear Chairman Solomon:

On behalf of Rhode Island Energy, I write in **opposition** to H-6085, which would increase net metering program costs when compared to existing law.

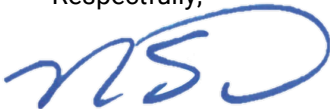
Rhode Island Energy provides essential energy services to more than 770,000 customers across the state through the delivery of electricity and natural gas. Our team of 1,400 union and non-union employees is dedicated to helping Rhode Island customers and communities thrive, while supporting the transition to a cleaner energy future in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner.

**Net metering is one of the largest public policy cost drivers on the electric bill today and is financially unsustainable for our customers if left unchecked.** In 2024, the net metering program cost Rhode Island electric customers more than \$111 million. This represents a 20% year-over-year increase and is more than double program costs incurred in 2022. This summer, a typical residential electric customer will pay \$7.29 per month to support this single initiative – *about 4% of the total bill*. Pursuant to the General Laws, net metering program costs are passed through to electric distribution customers with no utility “mark-up” or profit. Because net metering compensates at the full retail rate, unchecked program growth and expansion is leading to a shrinking pool of customers paying for distribution and transmission infrastructure vital to grid reliability and achievement of Act on Climate goals. The effect is one of shifting system costs from one set of energy customers to another, including low-income and other vulnerable populations.

Rhode Island Energy supports the state’s efforts to protect core forests and encourage future renewable development on disturbed sites, such as landfills, gravel pits, and other brownfields. Under existing law, ground-mounted projects subject to the 275 MW cap receive a 20% reduction in the renewable net metering credit rate – a significant benefit for electric customers shouldering program costs.<sup>1</sup> If H-6085 were to advance, “net-metering systems installed on a preferred site or mounted on a raised structure” would revert to the full net metering credit rate, consisting of supply, transmission, distribution, and transition charges. This will raise program costs, all else equal.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership.

Respectfully,



Nicholas S. Ucci  
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee  
The Honorable June Speakman, Rhode Island House of Representatives

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<sup>1</sup> RIGL §39-26.4-2(22)(iv).