

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS



LOCAL 99

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.
Business Manager

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Joseph Solomon / Chair
House Committee on Corporations
Via Email rep-solomon@rilegislature.gov

Re: Support for H 5580; An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers -- Net Metering

Dear Chairman Solomon,

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent over 1000 Men and Women who provide their skills for our Signatory Contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I also am one of, if not the only voice for the men and women who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by an electrical labor union in the state of Rhode Island.

I wish to express our strong support for **H-5580** for the following reasons:

The men and women of Local 99 have been in the renewable energy business for many decades. We started to further engage in 2008 when we installed the largest solar installation in the State of Rhode Island, at that time, on our own facility. A whopping 50 KW system. As we know, the industry has grown to where systems 1000 times that size are becoming routine.

Equally important to those large installations in our quest for a 100% renewable State are the everyday installations on residences and commercial structures.

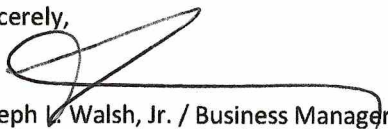
Local 99 has supported this bill for several years. We have actually fallen victim to the existing law when Local 99 updated our own solar array. With modern technology, we were able to meet all of our current electricity needs with a smaller footprint than the existing solar array. We have plans to expand the facility and move to the heating and cooling being all electric. Whereas we did not purchase the equipment nor were we doing that phase of the work at the time of the solar upgrade, we could not size the project accordingly base on our three-year usage study.

That now means we need to go through it all over again as we add on more electric equipment. That process is costly and time consuming not to mention nonsensical.

The average homeowner and commercial facility run into this issue on a regular basis. Allowing the three-year usage study to remain in place greatly impedes the State to reach our goal of 100% renewable and takes away the customers ability to make equitable investments into their own electricity cost burden.

In conclusion, **Local 99 strongly supports H-5580** and respectfully request positive action on this most important bill.

Sincerely,


Joseph L. Walsh, Jr. / Business Manager

Cc:

Louis Mansolillo, Committee Clerk
Committee Members
Paul Macdonald, Local 99 lobbyist