

Rep. Joseph Solomon, Chair
House Corporations Committee
RI House of Representatives

SUPPORT FOR H5580 Net Metering

April 24, 2025

Dear Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joel Gates. I am a resident of Glocester and a member of Climate Action Rhode Island. My testimony in strong support of H5580 reflects my own thoughts and opinions and are not necessarily those of CARI, although CARI has endorsed this bill.

We in Rhode Island and the rest of our planet are facing a climate crisis. We are also having to deal with a federal administration which seems to be embracing the perpetuation of this impending catastrophe. Our state needs to engage in green house gas emissions reductions without the feds and with like-minded states.

Rhode Island needs to do all we can to green up our electrical grid. One way is to allow energy customers to size their photovoltaic systems as they see fit. If an electric customer wants to future-proof their system, they should be allowed to do it. If the homeowner oversizes their PV system, they will be set when they add green technologies to their residence. Rather than adding PV modules as they incorporate electric vehicles, heat pumps, and batteries into their homes and lives, those customers will be all set as their electrical usage increases. Realistically, not many people will be adding these technologies all at once. And there may be additional green technologies that we haven't yet thought of!

This bill will also allow electric customers the opportunity to add more PV modules to their existing array as they add more green technology to their lives. I am one of those who started out 11 years ago with a PV system that produced almost as much electricity as I used. I have since added EV's and batteries and find myself needing more solar generated electricity to satisfy my usage. We need to encourage folks to fill their roofs with solar power!

Please pass this bill out of committee and support it in the full House. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Joel Gates
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Glocester, RI