

HB-6201  
PUC  
Suggested amendment



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

### Public Utilities Commission

89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888  
(401) 941-4500

Chairman Ronald T. Gerwatowski  
Commissioner Abigail Anthony

May 29, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chair, House Corporations Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill 6201 – Renewable Energy Standard

Dear Chair Solomon:

I am submitting comments on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on House Bill 6201, which adds “nuclear energy sources” to the list of defined renewable energy resources within the Renewable Energy Standard law. It appears the intent may be to allow nuclear energy environmental attributes that may be procured in the future to count toward Renewable Energy Standard (RES) compliance. The PUC takes no position on whether nuclear should be an “eligible renewable energy resource” for purposes of meeting the RES. However, the PUC cautions that because Section 39-26-5 (“eligible renewable energy resource”) is cross-referenced in so many other laws, this approach could have unintended consequences. There is another approach that would address this drafting concern.

The PUC recognizes that the House passed HB-5575 Sub A which added nuclear energy resources to the Affordable Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES). The PUC expects that Rhode Island Energy, if it chooses to pursue such a procurement, would contract for the energy and environmental attributes (nuclear certificates). If the power purchase agreement were approved, once Rhode Island Energy takes title of the nuclear certificates and retires them, the State of Rhode Island will be able to count 100% of those certificates toward meeting the Act on Climate emissions reductions goals.

However, if the goal is to allow the procured nuclear certificates to be counted toward the Renewable Energy Standard, that can be accomplished without defining nuclear as a renewable energy resource. Instead, the term nuclear energy resource could be defined in the general definitions section, 39-26-2. Then, Section 39-26-4(a) could be amended to allow Renewable Energy Standard compliance to include nuclear energy resources.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 401-780-2147 or [cynthia.wilsonfrias@puc.ri.gov](mailto:cynthia.wilsonfrias@puc.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia G. Wilson-Frias".

Cynthia G. Wilson-Frias  
Chief of Legal Services

cc: Representative Chippendale