

Testimony in opposition to H6201: Renewable Energy Standard—Nuclear Energy

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: May 29, 2025

To Chair Solomon and the honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee:

I oppose the bill because adding nuclear energy as “renewable” to the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) distracts from the mandate to *urgently* increase the amount of renewable energy. Nuclear power takes more than a decade to plan, permit and install, and is expensive. We can’t cheat your way around the urgency of decarbonization, by moving our attention to nuclear, the most expensive solution that won’t be able to be implemented in the short amount of time we have left to decarbonize and to rapidly reduce burning fossil fuels.

Even if *new* nuclear power plants would count against the RES, existing ones should not, because they would water down the RES on cost of the incentives and motivation to aggressively install solar and offshore wind. It may be tempting to take the pressure off by counting *existing* nuclear power, but let’s not forget, the planet rapidly continues to warm up, and we need to urgently have more of the sources of types of renewable energy that are listed in the current RES—affordable and clean offshore wind, and solar with battery storage are available at scale right now.

And let’s not forget: the Rhode Islanders do NOT want nuclear power plants in our state, so we should not burden other states with building them “for us” either. Do to your neighbors as you do unto yourself!

Please do NOT bring this bill to a vote.

Thank you very much for considering my input.



Dr. Hans Scholl

May 28, 2025

71 Fales Avenue
Barrington, RI 02806; (203) 687-6415; clclt17@mac.com