



Representative Joseph Solomon, Chair

House Corporations Committee

Rhode Island House of Representatives

May 29th, 2025

RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Opposes House Bill 6201

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, **I write in strong opposition to House Bill 6201**, which would allow for nuclear energy to be procured to meet the Renewable Energy Standard.

The Importance of Renewable Energy Credits in Promoting Renewable Energy

To meet the Renewable Energy Standard (RES), obligated entities can either purchase renewable energy, make alternative compliance payments, or purchase Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). The purchase of RECs is important for renewable energy developers as it creates reliability for profit they can earn through selling credits. By allowing nuclear energy to count towards compliance for the Renewable Energy Standard, nuclear generators could sell renewable energy credits for low prices which could hurt the profitability of renewable energy generators or make renewable energy development more uncertain if they can no longer sell their credits. This uncertainty could lead to less clean, renewable energy development from sources like wind and solar which would negatively impact Rhode Island's ability to meet the Act on Climate mandates.

Rhode Island also sees economic development from renewable energy sources developed in the state. According to the [2021 RES Annual Compliance Report](#), the majority of RECs purchased to meet RES compliance are purchased from in-state projects (45%). By contrast, if nuclear energy could count towards the RES, Rhode Island could shift to purchasing more RECs from out of state projects, increasing the amount of energy spending that leaves the state. In state renewable energy projects also provide local job growth and investment in our economy, and in critical infrastructure needed for these projects like port development.

Procuring Nuclear Energy is A Costly and Lengthy Process

While the permitting process for many renewable energy sources can take several years, nuclear energy permitting and construction can take over a decade. Rhode Island only has 25 years to meet the last deadline in the Act on Climate, of net-zero emissions by 2050. This is not a timeframe in which it would be feasible to pursue nuclear energy construction or wait for other states to undertake this process and purchase the energy. Wind, solar, and battery storage energy sources are readily available and can be built at scale to provide clean energy to our grid on a timeline that aligns with meeting the mandates in the Act on Climate. These energy sources can also provide grid reliability benefits and protect ratepayers against volatile fossil fuel prices.

Nuclear Energy is Not Made from Renewable Sources

The main source of fuel for nuclear energy, Uranium-235, is not a renewable resource due to the time needed to replenish the mineral on Earth. While nuclear energy does not produce greenhouse gas emissions, the components used to create nuclear are not renewable and therefore should not be treated as such when Rhode Island pursues meeting the Renewable Energy Standard. The nuclear waste byproduct of creating nuclear energy is also dangerous and requires isolated storage for the waste to safely decay which happens over thousands of years.

Conclusion

To ensure Rhode Island continues to invest in local, clean, renewable energy sources, nuclear energy should not be eligible to count towards the Renewable Energy Standard. Green Energy Consumers Alliance urges the Committee and full General Assembly to vote **against** passage of H6201.

Sincerely,

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