

Testimony in opposition to H6204: Duties of Utilities and carriers—Repeal of Energy  
Efficiency Charge

Barbara Sullivan-Watts, PhD 2 Locust Drive, Kingston, RI

Date of Hearing: May 29, 2025

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

Models of carbon emissions reductions show that energy efficiency is one of the most rapid and effective means of reducing carbon emissions. Take a look at how much global warming can be reduced by moving only the levers to increase energy efficiency (and by the way building efficiency) policy and no other action! They reduce global temperatures from 5.5 to 5.2F or 3.3 to 2.9 C here <https://en-roads.climateinteractive.org/scenario.html?v=25.5.0&p47=3.7&p50=3.7&g0=2&g1=62&units=us>

I think it will be easier for you to reject this bill and others which set us backwards in the effort to reduce carbon emissions if you are aware that the majority of Rhode Islander's do want their legislators to make policy that acts on climate change.

You can look up the Yale Climate opinion maps for 2024

<https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us/>

In fact, 62% of Rhode Islanders think that global warming is mostly caused by humans, 76% think it will harm future generations, and **58% think “my governor” should do more about it (and my extension their legislators).**

Many citizens are less aware, such as myself and other scientists who have studied climate, know about the need to act immediately to reduce the impact of climate change. If they did know what I know (and what James Hansen said in **2012**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/james\\_hansen\\_why\\_i\\_must\\_speak\\_out\\_about\\_climate\\_change/transcript](https://www.ted.com/talks/james_hansen_why_i_must_speak_out_about_climate_change/transcript) I believe even more would realize that an energy efficiency charge is a smart policy well worth every penny.

Barbara K. Sullivan-Watts, PhD

2 Locust Drive, Kingston, RI 02881