

June 16, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman, House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

RE: H-6418 – House Resolution Creating a Special Legislative Commission on Increasing the Use and Building Infrastructure for Alternative Fuels

Dear Chairman Solomon:

On behalf of Rhode Island Energy, I write regarding H-6418, which would establish a special legislative commission “to evaluate current and emerging alternative fuel sources viable for Rhode Island’s energy future, identify infrastructure requirements, assess potential implementation costs, and recommend actions for encouraging in-state production, use, and investment in alternative fuel technologies.” **As the state’s largest electric and natural gas distribution utility possessing unique operational insights and planning expertise, we respectfully request that the Commission be expanded to include a representative of Rhode Island Energy.**

Rhode Island Energy provides essential energy services to more than 770,000 customers across the state through the delivery of electricity and natural gas. Our team of 1,400 union and non-union employees is dedicated to helping Rhode Island customers and communities thrive, while supporting the transition to a cleaner energy future in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner.

As drafted, H-6418 refers to the use of alternative fuels in both the electric and natural gas sectors. As the state’s largest electric distribution utility and administrator of many existing clean energy mandates, Rhode Island Energy has unique insights and experience in this space that would benefit the Commission’s work – especially in regard to the potential implications of distributed energy resources to system reliability and the vital infrastructure investments that will be needed to maintain safe and reliable energy services throughout the Ocean State.

Moreover, Rhode Island Energy is the state’s only natural gas distribution utility, serving approximately 270,000 homes and businesses. To the extent that natural gas is considered within the context of the Commission’s work, it is vital for Rhode Island Energy to have a seat at the table to lend its unique expertise and operational understanding of the gas network. It will be critically important for this Commission to identify well-balanced and affordable strategies that not only enable pathways to reduce emissions but also maintain optionality for local homes and businesses and ensure that the natural gas system can be operated in a manner that provides safe, dependable energy services.

Rhode Island Energy appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation and thanks the Committee for its consideration.

Nicholas S. Ucci
Director of Government Affairs
Rhode Island Energy

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "NSU", written over a faint circular background.

Nicholas S. Ucci
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee
The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Rhode Island House of Representatives