



Via Electronic Mail

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Joe Solomon
Chair, House Committee on Corporations
Room 35, State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: CLF Supports House Bills 7068, 7727, and 7884

Dear Chair Solomon:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of House Bills 7068, 7727, and 7884**, which have, respectively, the potential to increase the efficiency of our transmission infrastructure, pursue acquisition of additional offshore wind power, and prevent the federal government from erroneously undermining our energy efficiency standards.

Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”) is a member-supported non-profit environmental advocacy organization working throughout New England to counter climate change, restore the health of our oceans, embolden new energy infrastructure, and safeguard health, quality of life, and economic prosperity for future generations. We are working to reduce emissions, address the climate crisis, and push for affordable and equitable energy policies in Rhode Island and across New England.

Before stepping into a quick discussion of our support for these referenced bills, CLF wants to communicate to the committee its **strong opposition to House Bills 7174, 7176, 7177, and 7523**. These short-sighted bills would repeal the core components of our energy strategy. They would destabilize our energy grid and increase our short- and long-term reliance on the same volatile fossil fuels that are at the core of why our energy bills are increasingly unaffordable.

House Bill No. 7068

CLF believes that Chair Solomon’s House Bill 7068 is a smart and strategic addition to the Energy Facility Siting Board’s (“EFSB”) jurisdiction to include setting performance standards for the replacement, rebuild, or expansion of transmission lines within our state. As demand for electricity transmission increases, the bill would give the EFSB the power to review these projects and ensure that they are maximally cost effective and utilizing the most efficient

technology available. This will help right-size transmission lines and ensure that they are meeting system needs.

House Bill No. 7727

CLF supports Rep. Handy's study commission for offshore wind procurement to guide the necessary future work of utilizing our local, affordable, and renewable energy resources. Even as Revolution Wind begins to deliver power to our state, we need to have our eyes on the horizon on how best to utilize the abundant wind energy just off our shores in the upcoming decades. This commission is an opportunity to learn lessons from bringing these first facilities online and chart our course forward towards additional procurements to be aligned with workforce standards and procurement methodology.

House Bill No. 7884

Finally, CLF supports Rep. Handy's H-7884 that creates a backstop against efforts by the current federal administration to undo existing efficiency standards for both energy and water conservation. The current Department of Energy, without evidence or justification, is pushing to repeal efficiency standards that reduce individual Rhode Islanders' use of energy and water in their laundry, showers, and other daily appliance usage. This bill would maintain state efficiency standards in Rhode Island that were in place before that rollback, which would have us join the current states with state laws that prevent weakening of efficiency standards. Not only does this serve Rhode Islanders by reducing expensive and unnecessary consumption, it also sends a clear signal to manufacturers and retailers that demand is for efficient, not wasteful, products.

We encourage the committee to support these bills and pass them out of committee and onto the House floor. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Jamie Rhodes
Senior Attorney, Rhode Island
Conservation Law Foundation

cc: Members of the House Committee on Corporations
Darrèll Brown, Vice President, CLF Rhode Island