

Dear Chair Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My testimony herein is in opposition to House Bills 7139, 7174, 7176, 7177, 7182, 7523, and 7611. I am a Providence resident, and energy policy analyst, a father, and the co-lead of Climate Action Rhode Island's Yes to Wind Campaign.

The climate crisis is among the most severe threats facing this state, our country, and specifically to the world that we are leaving to my son and all of our children. These bills represent a retreat in the face of this most significant threat, will not achieve the goal of affordable electric rates, and in many cases are also simply bad policy.

H 7139 - I oppose H 7139. State agencies including the DPUC and PUC already oversee Rhode Island Energy's administration of the Renewable Energy Growth (REG) Program. As such this bill creates a redundant, un-necessary layer of additional oversight that is clearly intended to hamper administration of the program.

H7174 - I oppose H 7174. Energy efficiency programs lower the bills not only of those who adopt energy efficiency measures, but also of all users by reducing overall power demand. Energy efficiency programs are already required to provide a net benefit under the state's least cost procurement methodology.

H7176 - I oppose H 7176. Rhode Island residents strongly support solar, and most prefer to see solar on rooftops than in fields or in forests that have been cleared. In order to facilitate rooftop solar, it is necessary to have policies that enable higher compensation because rooftops and small installations are inherently more expensive per unit of power delivered.

This small-scale and/or behind the meter solar represents most of what has been deployed in New England to date. This small-scale solar has delivered cost savings for residents in Rhode Island and across the region through reducing net peak demand and the use of the most expensive, least efficient power plants, as documented in the report Solar Savings in New England by Synapse Energy.

The Renewable Energy Growth (REG) program is a best-in-class policy to support rooftop and small-scale solar, particularly at the commercial and industrial level. Because it pays for solar through a payment instead of a utility bill offset, it avoids the cost shifting onto other customers that net metering can cause. Furthermore, REG's program allows for compensation levels to be adjusted to ensure that over-payment does not occur.

REG represents only a minor cost to state residents; according to Rhode Island Energy's February 2025 presentation to ratepayers, it is only 2.3% of winter utility bills, or around \$4 per month for the average customer. If bill sponsors want to save money for ratepayers, then they would be better served to look at ways to reduce our demand for wholesale power. If they want to find areas to reduce costs paid for solar, then I would recommend measures to reduce the cost of deployment, such as in H 7726.

H 7177: I oppose H 7177. The high costs of energy that Rhode Island residents are experiencing are driven primarily by an over-dependence on natural gas, which sets the price on our regional wholesale power market. Solar and wind reduce that price, by providing zero marginal cost resources which lower the price paid to all generators. The measures proposed in this bill are completely antithetical to dealing with the electricity price issues that our state is experiencing.

H 7182: I oppose H 7182. Large-scale solar is the cheapest form of electricity available to the state of Rhode Island, with contracts typically coming in around 7-10 cents per kilowatt-hour. As we will not meet all of our spring and summer electricity demand with rooftop solar, it is critical that we deploy large-scale solar. And as noted in H 7177, the measures proposed in this bill are completely antithetical to dealing with the electricity price issues that our state is experiencing.

H 7523: I oppose H 7523. As noted in my opposition to H 7176, H 7177, and H 7182, stopping renewable energy programs removes the very tools that we need to contain the high and volatile costs of wholesale power purchases which are driven by natural gas prices.

H 7611: Rhode Island's Renewable Energy Standard (RES) is one of our most important tools to deploy renewables and help our state mitigate the high electricity prices that are the result of a regional over-dependence on natural gas. It is also remarkably cost-effective; according to Rhode Island Energy's February 2025 presentation, costs associated with the RES represented only 3.5% of the typical winter 2024-2025 utility bill, or around \$6 per month.

Rhode Island is additionally about to get 19% of its RES compliance needs met with renewable energy credits from the Revolution Wind project, which has begun delivering first power and will be coming online over the next few months. This should push back future REC purchases and RES program price increases by three years. There is certainly no urgency to modify the RES at this time.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Christian Roselund
842 Hope Street Apt 3
Providence, RI 02906
(857)209-1501
c.roselund@gmail.com