



March 19, 2026

Testimony in opposition to:

H 7139 (Place et al.) slowing renewables programs down

H7174 (Paplauskas et al.) repealing energy efficiency charge

H7175 (Chippendale et al.) Requiring RIE to procure methane gas pipeline capacity

H7176 (Chippendale et al.) repealing Renewable Energy Growth (REG) program

H7177 (Chippendale et al.) moratorium on net metering, subsidies on heat pumps, and contracts on wind and solar

H7523 (Quattrocchi et al.) five-year moratorium on REG, renewables and energy efficiency program charges on electricity bills

H7611 (Lima et al.) Gutting the Renewable Energy Standard

House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chairman Soloman and Committee Members,

I am writing as the executive director of Climate Action RI and a lifelong Rhode Islander. CARI is the largest grassroots organization of Rhode Islanders dedicated to the just transition to clean, affordable renewable energy.

I am writing in strong opposition to the above-mentioned bills, and as the reasons for my opposition applies to all of these retrograde pieces of legislation, I am submitting the same testimony addressing all of them.

It is hard for me to imagine what the sponsors of these bills are thinking in promoting these bills. I assume they have good intentions and are just greatly misinformed. It is difficult though to understand how at the present moment, with the clear evidence at hand, they could continue to believe there is a rational basis for supporting any of these pieces of legislation. If you can't see during a bright day, you are either blind, or more likely have chosen to keep your eyes closed.

My three points are 1) **Climate Change is Real** 2) **Renewable Energy is Cheap Energy**, and 3) **It is Our Responsibility**.

Climate Change is Real: It should be unnecessary to state this. Do they not believe in climate change and the disaster that is unfolding in front of our eyes. Do they believe that it is a hoax as the president claims. Do they not believe in clear science and accumulating present day observations. As I write this heat records for March are being shattered throughout western United States, and

some April records could fall, now in the middle of March. This is not normal. Yes, we in the East experienced a colder than normal winter, but the continental US as a whole, experienced second warmest winter on record! Over the next year the El Nino weather pattern will establish itself, sending temperatures even higher. Extreme heat kills! More worrying still, are the early signs of the collapse of large global systems such as the desertification of the Amazon or the slowing of the Gulf Stream. Sea levels are rising even faster than predicted, a problem for a state with 400 miles of coastline. In short, they should realize by now that as we are already experiencing the beginning of what is in store if we don't do all we can to slow change as fast as we can – death, destruction, and economic collapse.

Renewable Energy is Cheap: I know some of the sponsors of these bills believe that it only with government subsidies that renewable energy is economical. That might have been true a decade ago. This is no longer true. The costs of solar, wind, and batteries have all plunged, and continue to get cheaper and more efficient. Globally, 95% of the new electrical generation installed in 2025 was renewable, and this was done for economic reasons. Yes, these systems tend to have high upfront costs, but as they do not need to be continually resupplied with fuel, they are close to free to operate. While they talk about the subsidies that renewable energy has gotten, they ignore the \$30-40 billion in subsidies the fossil fuel industry gets each year, which the Trump administration just increased by \$4 billion/year. They also ignore the fact that fossil fuels have very large, externalized costs to society including substantial health impacts from air pollution, and their contribution to destroying a livable climate. If fossil fuels were charged for the damage they do, they would be unaffordable. The few dollars these bills might save on utility bills will be swamp by the savings we will lose without them.

This is the amazing situation we are in. Doing the right thing is the economic thing – it comes with the reward of cheaper, more abundant energy. There is enough solar and wind energy to supply us with many times the energy we need now or ever will. Of course there are upfront costs, but the payback comes faster and faster. This fact alone, without the other considerations I am highlighting, is enough to know these bills are not good for Rhode Islanders and their pocketbooks.

Our Responsibility: Do they think we should not be part of the solution? The majority of Rhode Islanders do. Of course, the incremental change to global warming that RI alone can achieve does not solve the problem, but that is true for every state and every country. It is only when we all do our part does the solution appear. The federal government is actively shirking this responsibility, which is all the more reason that Rhode Island should step up. Do they really want to be on the wrong side of history. I used to think that I am doing this work for my adult kids as climate change will be the central issue of their lives, and that is still true. What I am more aware of is that the negative effects of climate change are going to have a growing impact on my own life in the years I have left.

For all these reasons I encourage you to oppose all of these bills.

Respectively yours,

Jeff Migneault
Executive Director
Climate Action Rhode Island