



Representative Joseph Solomon, Chair

House Corporation Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives

March 19th, 2026

RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Opposes H7139, 7176, and 7523.

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the committee,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, **I write in strong opposition to House Bills 7139, 7176, and 7523** which would all affect the state's Renewable Energy Growth program.

Opposition to H7139: Requiring General Assembly approval of costs, tariffs, or mandates created by the Renewable Energy Growth program.

We oppose this legislation because the Distributed Generation board, created by [Rhode Island General Laws § 39-26.2-10](#) already provides the DG board with direction over the Renewable Energy Growth Program. Additionally, oversight for any costs incurred by program operation was delegated to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). In doing this the General Assembly assigned those bodies responsibility to ensure the Renewable Energy Growth Program is reasonable. Requiring additional oversight by the General Assembly is a step that would slow down resource deployment.

The electric distribution company is also already required to file a report with the PUC reconciling "the total amount recovered from distribution customers against the total of net payments and costs for the prior program year " ([RI. Gen. Laws § 39-26.6-25](#)) for their review and approval. Ultimately, the oversight already rests with the PUC and should remain with them.

Opposition to H7176: Repealing the Renewable Energy Growth program.

The Renewable Energy Growth program is one venue through which the state supports the development of distributed energy resources including residential and commercial solar projects, wind, and anaerobic digestion. Clean energy resources such as these increase the amount of clean electricity on our electric grid while compensating the resource owner for their production. This system takes advantage of sites that are good locations for distributed resources, like rooftops, ensuring that areas conducive to renewable energy deployment are being utilized.

Opposition to H7523: 5-year moratorium on REG program charge, REDC program charge, and EE program charge.

“Green energy surcharges” like the RE Growth program charge, renewable energy distribution charge, and energy efficiency program charge are all programs that either support the development of renewable energy or directly help ratepayers manage their utility bills while maintaining comfortability in their home. This legislation would also prohibit collection of these charges from the electric bill, but energy efficiency programs are funded via a charge on both electric and gas utility bills. It is unclear if this legislation would continue to allow the gas energy efficiency program charge to remain collectable, and what impact that would have on Rhode Island Energy’s ability to operate energy efficiency programs. Regarding a moratorium on collecting surcharges for net metering and renewable energy growth, participants in these programs sign long term contracts with terms of 15-20 years. To stop collecting the charges that funds these contracts would undermine the basis of the program.

Furthermore, this legislation does not officially define “green energy surcharge”, which creates a vague framework that electric bill charges must be measured against.

Green Energy Consumers Alliance is in strong opposition to each of these bills as written, as they would add complexity to existing renewable energy programs and halt or eliminate the adoption of energy efficient and clean energy technologies that improve energy affordability and reliability. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we strongly urge against passage of H7139, 7176, and 7523.

Sincerely,

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