

Testimony in opposition of H 7176

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To Chair Solomon and the honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee

I am writing in opposition to H 7176. This bill is an egregious attempt by self-serving representatives and the fossil fuel industry to throw out (hook-line and sinker) a program that informs and supports the growth of renewable energy/renewable system and energy efficiency programs that RI businesses and residents want and need.

Think about the real reasons this bill was created.

- 1) To support the continuation of dirty and higher cost fossil fuels.
- 2) To kill support (and incentives) for low-cost renewable energy and renewable energy systems needed by RI businesses and residents.
- 3) To stripe away needed incentives for renewable energy, renewable energy systems and energy efficiency programs that RI businesses and residents want and need more than ever.

RI businesses and residents are being crushed by the high cost of energy today. This energy is coming from expensive methane natural gas, and heating oil. The cost of this energy is not going to come down (ever). We want and need renewable (solar and wind) energy and we need it now. Solar is the lowest cost energy in the world and it's easy to deploy. Let's do everything we can at the state government level to help RI businesses and residents deploy more clean low-cost renewable energy.

The most inexpensive use of energy is the one you "don't use". Energy efficiency programs are the best way to avoid using more energy (of any kind). So why stop promoting these programs and why remove a small energy efficiency charge from monthly utility bills that benefit all Rhode Islanders? I thing we know the answer, right? Fossil fuel companies and self-serving legislators want to remove any/all incentives related to energy efficiency programs that help businesses and residents of RI. This is NOT what constituents want or need from their state representatives, and is a clear and present danger to the overwhelming majority of RI businesses and residents who demand clean low- cost renewable energy.

Please do not advance this bill and do not repeal the energy efficiency charge that is making a positive difference to businesses and residents in RI.

*George Voutes*

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