

Testimony in opposition of H 7177

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

I am submitting testimony in opposition to H 7177. This obstructionist bill is a hail mary attempt by self-serving representatives to appease fossil fuel special interests and pull the rug out from under successful renewable energy programs helping RI businesses and residents deal with high (and rising) fossil fuel energy costs.

Let's look at the harms H 7177 will have on RI businesses and residents as it relates to the moratorium's purported in this bill...

1) *Moratorium on any rights to renew or enter into any net metering contracts:*

- Businesses and residents invest in solar with net metering to provide excess electrical energy back to the grid. This helps lower the cost of energy to the public (because solar is much less expensive than fossil fuel energy) and owners of the solar systems are mildly compensated for sending excess energy back to the grid.
 - My business invested over \$140K in a solar system and the business case assumption relies heavily on net metering staying in place.
 - I invested \$72K in a home solar system and my home business case assumption heavily relies on net metering staying in place.

Eliminating new metering for businesses and residents will significantly lower the ROI for the capital expenditures that have already been made, and slow down the growth of solar projects and good paying and clean energy jobs in RI.

2) *Prohibiting any long-term contracts for purchasing solar or wind energy with any energy provider:*

- RI businesses and residents want and need low cost, clean, and dependable energy. Natural gas and oil are high cost, dirty, volatile, and outdated. 95% of all new energy deployed in 2025 worldwide was renewable. 91% of all new energy deployed in the US in 2025 was renewable energy. Prohibiting new contracts for solar and wind will lock RI ratepayers in higher energy costs, accelerate climate change, and send profits from burning fossil fuels outside of RI. Our region is not favorable to expanding fossil fuel energy, but it is perfect for building out large

scale solar and wind renewable energy sources. The jobs that come with renewable energy are very good ones and help build long-term, stable careers for our RI workforce.

3) *No state funds shall be used to subsidize the purchase or installation of heat pumps provided by any utility or governmental agency:*

- Heat pumps ARE the go-to technology for new construction and for upgrading existing homes and businesses. Eliminating all subsidies will put trades people out of work, lock businesses and residents into higher priced and inefficient heating technology. Talk about a regressive (and stupid) part of this bill, heat pumps simply work and work very well; with super high efficiency and quiet operation. So why slow down their deployment? **Answer: the fossil fuel industry makes less money when heat pumps are used.**

I cannot find any thing good in H 7177, and I challenge the authors to prove the committee (with real facts and data) that this bill would be good for RI businesses, residents, and ratepayers.

Please do not advance this bill, but continue to invest in renewable energy sources, electro-tech jobs, and a cleaner state for us all to enjoy.

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