



March 18, 2026

**VIA EMAIL (HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov)**

Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chair, House Corporations Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903  
rep-solomon@rilegislature.gov

***Re: Opposition to H 7177; An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers --  
Moratorium on Net Metering, Long-Term Contracts and Subsidies for Heat  
Pumps***

***Opposition to H 7176; An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers -- The  
Renewable Energy Growth Program***

***Opposition to H 7182; An Act Relating to Towns and Cities -- Zoning  
Ordinances***

Dear Representative Solomon:

I write to you in your capacity as the Chair of the House Corporations Committee and with respect to H 7177, H 7176 and H 7182, three bills pending before your Committee for hearing tomorrow evening. H 7177 would enact a permanent moratorium on the renewal or execution of “net metering contracts” and further prohibits the State “from entering into any long-term contracts for the purchasing of solar or wind energy with any energy provider.” H 7176 proposes a complete repeal of the entire Renewable Energy Growth (REG) program (R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 39-26.6-1, *et seq.*). H 7182 proposes to prohibit utility scale solar development on all private property larger than one acre. I write in my capacity as Senior Legal Counsel for Revity Energy LLC and its affiliates (“Revity”) and to express **Revity’s opposition to H 7177, H 7176 and H 7182**. Revity is a Rhode Island-based utility-scale solar developer which has developed 27 photovoltaic solar energy system (“PSES”) facilities in Rhode Island with a total nameplate capacity of 147 megawatts, direct current (MWDC) and has 4 projects under construction totaling 48 MWDC. In any given year, Revity employs between 50 and 100 IBEW-99 union electricians to construct its facilities. In 2025, Revity paid over \$700,000 in taxes, permitting and other fees to the 10 Rhode Island municipalities in which Revity operates. Last year, Revity’s net-metering projects saved 5

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municipalities, 5 universities, 5 hospitals and 7 local businesses \$6.7 million on their electricity bills.

As a preliminary matter, with the fourth highest electricity prices in the country, the cost of electricity is understandably a priority concern for Rhode Island's state leaders. Rhode Island Energy has reported that, on an average residential electricity bill, distribution charges (the cost to maintain the local distribution infrastructure) represents 23% of the bill, transmission charges (the cost to maintain regional transmission infrastructure) represents 15% of the bill, supply charges (the cost of electricity procurement) represents 41% of the bill, and state mandates and taxes (including renewable energy programs) represents 21% of the bill.<sup>1</sup> In that latter category, the State's renewable energy programs represent about 13% of the bill. According to Rhode Island Energy, over the last five years, the cost of state mandates and taxes have increased by 35.7% and the costs of distribution and supply have increased by 45.1%. Addressing the rising costs of electricity in Rhode Island cannot be solved by simply gutting the State's renewable energy programs as proposed by H 7177, H 7176 and H 7182.

As of December of 2025, Rhode Island was ranked 35<sup>th</sup> in the country for solar development with \$106 million invested in 2025 and 1,420 solar jobs statewide.<sup>2</sup> In Rhode Island, there are two statutory compensation programs that facilitate remuneration for solar energy generation: (1) the net-metering program pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26.4-1, *et seq.* and (2) the REG program pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 39-26.6-1, *et seq.* As of May of 2025, Rhode Island's net metering program had built 617 megawatts of renewable energy capacity and there are 443 megawatts of net metering capacity in the interconnection queue.<sup>3</sup> The net metering program allows customers with eligible renewable energy systems to receive credits on their electricity bills for all power generation up to 125% of the customers' consumption during a billing period. The virtual net-metering program allows a developer to install a utility-scale solar facility and execute contracts with an "offtaker" to sell the net-metering credits generated by that installation to that offtaker at a substantial discount compared to the standard per-kilowatt price of electricity sold by Rhode Island Energy. That offtaker then, instead of paying Rhode Island Energy for its electricity usage, redeems the net-metering credits that it purchased from the developer thereby both monetizing the credit for the developer and achieving substantial savings on the offtaker's electricity bill. H 7177 would permanently prohibit "any right to renew or enter into any net metering contracts that are regulated by state law" and further provides that "no customer sited and/or grid-connected power generated energy contracts shall be permitted under any provision of the general laws." H 7177 also provides that "the State of Rhode Island is hereby prohibited from entering into any long-term contracts for the purchasing of solar or wind energy with any energy provider."

H 7176 is even more troubling when viewed in conjunction with H 7177, which is also pending in your Committee, and proposes to repeal the entire REG program. The REG program is administered by Rhode Island Energy, regulated by the Office of Energy Resources and compensates the developer of distributed generation projects under long-term tariffs at fixed

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<sup>1</sup> <https://capitolvri.cablecast.tv/show/11783>

<sup>2</sup> <https://seia.org/state-solar-policy/rhode-island-solar/>


<sup>3</sup> [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.rilegislature.gov/commissions/REPC/commdocs/05-29-2025---Presentation--RIE\\_Net%20Metering.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.rilegislature.gov/commissions/REPC/commdocs/05-29-2025---Presentation--RIE_Net%20Metering.pdf)

prices. Unlike the net metering program, the REG program pays renewable energy generators cash for their electricity production. The program updates the ceiling prices, megawatt allocation plan, and recommendations from the quality assurance program on an annual basis. If both H 7177 and H 7176 were enacted, there would be no program left in the State to compensate PSES systems for electricity generation. Obviously, with no statutory program in the State to compensate private renewable energy development, it will be virtually impossible for the State to reach any of its climate goals.

Lastly, H 7182 would prohibit the development of utility scale solar projects (defined as a project participating in the net-metering program) from “utilizing” any “undeveloped property consisting of one acre or more \* \* \*.” Importantly, H 7182 employs the term “*utilize*” which presumably means that currently operating utility scale solar sites could no longer “utilize” the sites on which they are currently operating. Insofar as a utility-scale solar site generally requires approximately 3 acres per megawatt, H 7182 would essentially prohibit all utility scale solar participating in the net metering program from operating. Importantly, these projects cannot move to the REG program to avoid the effects of H 7182 because the REG program is statutorily restricted to new projects. Rhode Island has over a gigawatt of solar in operation or under development which will produce approximately 1.325 billion kilowatt hours of electricity annually and saving hospitals, municipalities and universities participating as offtakers in the net-metering program over \$50 million in electricity costs. This industry represents over \$2 billion in private investment. Setting aside the State’s climate goals, H 7182 would interfere with private property rights, take hundreds of millions of kilowatt hours of supply off-line and evaporate tens of millions of dollars of electricity savings for net-metering offtakers.

If the Committee has any questions regarding H 7177, H 7176 and H 7182 or the statements made in this testimony, please contact my office.

Regards.



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REVITY ENERGY LLC AND AFFILIATES

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