

TO: HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov

SUBJECT: Support for 7269

March 10, 2026

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

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the Committee,

My name is Gretchen Sotomayor, and I live in Newport, RI. I am submitting testimony in support of Bill 7269, the Balcony Solar bill.

This bill democratizes solar energy by making it inexpensive and simple enough for people to install themselves, thereby avoiding the higher initial cost of rooftop solar. Although it will not provide enough power to run an entire house, it has the potential to dramatically reduce electric bills. It does not involve any costs to the state or to ratepayers.

Legislation like this is being considered or has been adopted in other states. Utah, for example, recently adopted standards to allow balcony solar, and they included language to ensure that safety features will address concerns by utility providers.

Please support this legislation that will keep Rhode Islanders working together to find creative ways to capture energy for household usage.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Sotomayor