



HB 7269 Written Testimony

Dear Chair Soloman and Members of the Committee on Corporations. My name is Hannah Ellis representing Bright Saver, a national non-profit dedicated to building a plug-in solar movement in the US, making solar ownership affordable and accessible to everyone. I am testifying to encourage the Committee to support **HB 7269** to allow the people of Rhode Island to access plug-in solar, saving money by reducing their electricity bills.

This is a market-driven solution requiring no tax credits or public funds. It's just cutting red tape. Plug-in solar is easy to set up and portable. It doesn't require rooftop installation. It can be placed on any accessible flat surface, like yards and balconies. This means people with roofs that are not good for solar or people who rent can easily go solar with a plug-in system.

By passing legislation enabling plug-in solar, Rhode Island will be joining a national movement, and in so doing, building a market for plug-in solar in the US. Last year, Utah was the first state to pass legislation, enacting H.B. 340, a bipartisan reform exempting plug-in solar from interconnection rules. This year, more than 30 states have introduced legislation.

This technology reduces electricity bills and improves energy resilience. By directly supplying power to household appliances, these systems reduce the amount of electricity households must purchase from utilities. And from a grid perspective, plug-in solar functions like energy efficiency measures, reducing stress on the grid.

HB 7269 ensures that plug-in solar systems are safe for consumers and for the grid. Systems installed according to UL safety standards cited in the bill will not:

- Shock users
- Overload circuits or create fire hazards
- Backfeed during a power outage, which protects line workers, firefighters, and anyone working on a multi-unit building

HB 7269 represents an important step toward expanding access to affordable, safe, and consumer-driven clean energy in Rhode Island. We respectfully urge the Committee to support HB 7269, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.