

Trafton testimony to support H7269, House Corporations Committee 3.19.2026

Dear Chair Solomon and Honorable Members of The House Corporations Committee,

I'm Peter Trafton from Providence, Rhode Island, writing in strong support of H7269, sponsored by Rep Speakman and colleagues.

This bill will provide for Rhode Islanders a new model for solar electricity generation. Utah unanimously passed a bill essentially identical to 7269 a year ago and is successfully implementing it now. The Virginia legislature has just unanimously passed such a bill which awaits their governor's signature. More than 20 states are in the process of advancing this bill for "plug-in solar" or "balcony solar". More than a million Germans have been using such devices for several years.

Low wattage solar panels with safety devices and instructions are essentially "plug- and-play" options avoiding multiple regulations, permitting, and permitted rooftop installation. UL and national electric code approvals are developing, and device kits are on the market widely in the US. The cost of plug-in devices ranges from \$400-\$2000 and falls as adoption increases (as demonstrated in Germany and Utah). They supplement already existing electric power, partially replacing that needed in the home. Since less power is provided by the electric utility, the homeowners electric bills are lower. Interestingly, bill reductions are in the range of those touted by our Governor's "affordability" plan. The devices can be used in apartments, rental homes, and moved from home to home. The predicted life is in the range of 30 years.

It behooves Rhode Island to get on board. We need relief from our high cost electricity bills. H7269 provides this while offering a level of independence and freedom from regulations unique in throughout our country. Yesterday, I was unable to find any reference to plug-in solar on the OER's website. It is time for us to pass this bill and its companion and proceed to support those who are able and willing to make a small investment for a significant reduction in electricity cost. Please pass H7269.

Thanks very much for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Trafton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter Trafton