

Testimony in opposition of H 7523

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

I am submitting testimony in opposition to H 7523. This bill is a bogus attempt by self-serving representatives to appease fossil fuel special interests and abruptly halt successful renewable energy (RE) programs helping RI businesses and residents deal with high (and rising) fossil fuel energy costs. The moratoriums cited in this bill are blatant government overreach, and attack (once again) RE programs that serve all Rhode Islanders; helping lower our energy costs, making energy more affordable, and helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions and excess water use. The authors of this bill are out of touch with how RE works and the benefits it has over volatile and expensive fossil fuel energy.

The RE program charge that ratepayers get on their monthly utility bill pales in comparison to the immense benefits all Rhode Islanders derives from the RE programs this bill attempts to stop. RI doesn't need to put moratoriums on RE programs, rather, we need to attack the problem of crazy high fossil fuel costs that RI ratepayers get each month; the profits of which leave RI and go back to fossil fuel companies. We want lower and more predicable energy costs that come from more RE sources (solar, wind). The authors would be wise to serve up bills that deliver more low cost RE to their constituents.

Please to not advance this obstructionist bill. It goes against the interests of all Rhode Islanders and will only perpetuate our dependence on expensive and dirty fossil fuel energy. Also, please keep in mind the harm this bill will have if passed on existing and future RE good jobs in our state. RE job growth is real and exciting.

*George Voutes*

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