

Testimony in opposition of H 7611

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

I am submitting testimony in opposition to H 7611. This bill delays by 11 years our current Renewable Energy Standard (RES) law that is actually working fine helping RI transform away from costly and volatile fossil fuel energy sources and transition towards lower cost and cleaner renewable energy. Why are the authors of H7611 moving the RES out 11 years and locking RI ratepayers into the high costs of natural gas and oil energy? Do they actually think that fossil fuel cost will come down (or be cleaner) for RI businesses and residents by delaying RES? If they do, then I have a bridge I'd like to sell them.

When was the last time fossil fuel energy cost came down and stayed there for RI ratepayers? These costs don't come down and kicking the can down the road by delaying RES will have zero effect on bringing down our skyrocketing energy costs. The committee should question the intent of this bill, and be reminded that the best way to achieve structural reform and lower sustained energy costs for Rhode Islanders is to accelerate (not derail) the transition to renewable energy. Solar and wind are the answer to our energy problems, and RI is well on its way to making the successful transition to renewable energy. Let's stay the course! The benefits are already happening and will accelerate immensely in the near term and for the long-term.

Energy costs are much too high for Rhode Island residents because of our reliance on expensive fossil fuels and antiquated fossil fuel delivery systems. The cost of renewables continues to fall every day, while fossil fuels become more and more expensive. It is widely known and economically proven that energy from renewable sources is less expensive and cleaner than energy from fossil fuels. At the end of 2025, **renewable energy was cleaner and the most cost-effective option for new electricity generation**. Businesses and homeowners are shifting to renewables because renewables offer a **more affordable present cost, and a greener future** ([renewableenergy.ca](https://renewableenergy.ca)). 95% of all new worldwide energy projects were renewable energy ones. 91% of all new energy projects in the US in 2025 were renewable energy ones. Let's stay the course and keep current RES target dates in place.

Please do not advance H 7611. It is pure political theater and caters to the fossil fuel industry.

*George Voutes*

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