

SUBJECT: Support for House Bill No. 7726 (The Solar Cost Reduction Act)

FROM: Bill Ibelle, co-chair Climate Action RI Politics Team
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Dear Chairman Solomon and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of H7726: (the Solar Cost Reduction Act)

This is another example of simple, lost-cost legislation that will help lower energy costs while simultaneously moving us forward on our transition to clean energy.

Residential solar costs far more in the U.S. than it does in Europe and other countries like Australia, largely because of our outdated and overly complex permitting process, which drives up the cost of installation.

This bill provides a solution that unnecessary cost by streamlining and automating the permitting process. The system utilizes **free** software (SolarAPP+) that was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The program allows contractors to submit permit applications electronically for residential solar and automates the approval process, eliminating the need for costly and time consuming review. The program automatically performs code compliance checks for building, electrical, fire, and zoning regulations. It then either issues a permit or automatically determines the revisions in the application needed to earn a permit.

This software can be easily integrated into the state's existing online permitting platform and automatically tracks all this information for easy data analysis.

It's simple, costs practically nothing, and will lower the cost of residential solar by eliminating unnecessary red tape.

Bill Ibelle
co-chair Climate Action RI political team