



March 17, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman, House Corporations Committee
RI State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill 7726 (2026 Session), the Solar Cost Reduction Act.

Dear Chairman Solomon,

The Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce would like to express our support for Rhode Island House Bill 7726 (2026 Session), titled the Solar Cost Reduction Act.

The Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce is one of the state's largest business advocacy organizations, whose mission is to connect, innovate, enhance, and advocate for the businesses of Greater Newport. As a trusted and reliable institution for over 100 years, the Chamber is a vibrant collective body of the regional business community with nearly 1,000 members representing over 50,000 employees. We work to create valuable strategic partnerships, promote strong economic growth, diversity, and prosperity to serve our members and the community.

Solar remains one of the most popular energy sources for families and businesses in America. Solar consistently polls well, and our research shows that demand for solar is going to keep growing because it saves families money and allows customers to take control of their energy future.

The Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce supports HB 7726, as the bill modernizes solar permitting by creating a statewide online E-Permitting Portal. This will automate plan review and provide an instant permit, which will reduce delays and soft costs both for the installer and the jurisdiction. Permitting delays have the impact of raising solar costs. Plan review is important to ensure that the work proposed is safe and code compliant. By automating this process, the jurisdiction is freed to work on other projects, while allowing a computer program to ensure safety and code compliance isn't compromised in the revision process.

This type of legislation helps to streamline efficiencies of local jurisdictions. These tools are provided at no cost to local government, and act as optional, additive express pathways for installers to submit projects. These solutions are not a replacement for plan review staff, but rather a tool in their toolbelt to assist them in permitting an increasing number of systems. We believe the passing of this legislation would greatly impact the solar industry.

Thank you for your consideration of Rhode Island House Bill 7726 (2026 Session), titled the Solar Cost Reduction Act. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 401-847-1608 ext. 1 or via email at Erin@NewportChamber.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin L. Donovan-Boyle".

Erin Donovan-Boyle
President & CEO
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce