

March 26, 2026  
Via Electronic Mail

Rep. Joseph Solomon, Chair  
House Committee on Corporations  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly

**Subject: ACT Support for H.7726 An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers - Solar Cost Reduction Act**

Dear Chair Solomon and distinguished members of the House Committee on Corporations,

The Alliance for Climate Transition ("ACT") appreciates the opportunity to submit comments in support of H.7726, An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers - Solar Cost Reduction Act. The passage of this bill will help streamline and modernize Rhode Island's solar permitting processes, which are essential steps in promoting clean energy development.

ACT leads the just, equitable, and rapid transition to a clean energy future and a diverse climate economy. ACT is the only organization in the Northeast that covers all of the clean energy market segments, representing the business perspectives of investors and clean energy companies across every stage of development. ACT members span the broad spectrum of the clean energy industry, including clean transportation, energy efficiency, wind, solar, energy storage, microgrids, fuel cells, and advanced technologies.

**ACT supports House Bill 7726, the Solar Cost Reduction Act**, as it will help to lower costs for Rhode Island consumers, businesses, and municipalities alike. Currently, Rhode Island suffers from long residential solar permitting wait times due to constraints such as manual plan reviews, in-person inspections, and utility "permission to operate." These processes help to bottleneck and increase the cost of residential solar, leading to soft costs to make up a significant portion of rooftop solar pricing.

The Solar Cost Reduction Act will help to modernize these permitting and inspection processes, reducing delays while maintaining safety standards. This bill will help to automate the plan review into the state's online permitting system, and instantly issue permits for small-scale and residential systems that are code-compliant, helping to drive down costs for municipalities and consumers. Additionally, this bill aligns permitting procedures to align with simplified interconnection rules, further reducing unnecessary costs and helping to address energy affordability concerns.

The legislation, as introduced, takes various steps to improve the efficiency of solar permitting processes in Rhode Island and helps the state join the other 18 states that have begun automating their permitting platforms. These practices help to modernize Rhode Island's practices, securing it as a state that is committed to solar and clean energy development.

ACT supports the provisions in H. 7726. We understand that the Committee is reviewing and considering small changes to the bill. We stand ready to discuss and support passage of the key elements in this legislation, in whatever form it takes moving forward.

On behalf of our members, thank you for your consideration of our comments, and please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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