

[HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov)

Subject: **Support for H7727**

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the Committee, my name is Barbara K. Sullivan-Watts, Ph.D. I live in Kingston, RI 02881. I am submitting testimony in support of H7727, The Offshore Wind Policy Procurement Commission Bill.

As a Senior Marine Scientist, Emerita, at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography since 1980 I have expertise in the impacts of many factors on marine ecosystems of the northeast coast, including climate change. I am co-author of the website, [Realoffshorewind.com](http://Realoffshorewind.com) that provides scientifically based information on offshore wind.

As State Coordinator for the Rhode Island Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby I represent our 800+ state members in their concerns about climate change from both my scientific perspective and as a citizen concerned with the legislative process that must meet our Act on Climate Goals. Energy production by offshore wind is essential to meeting those goals.

Not everyone understands the wealth of wind energy right off our shores – when I give lectures to URI students, I show maps of the energy available, more wind energy than almost anywhere on earth, during all seasons. Once the turbines are developed, the energy is free. Only short transmission lines are needed to bring it ashore, thus little energy is lost in transit. Compared to the impacts of climate change on the local marine ecology it will have small impacts that are likely indistinguishable from the large amount of natural annual variability. Rhode Island is the perfect place for offshore wind.

Establishing an Offshore Wind Procurement Policy Commission will help the state develop a clear, informed strategy to procure offshore wind. It ensures action within 180 days, a reasonable timeframe. It includes representatives from RI Energy, the PUC and OER who understand immediate market based economic concerns, as well as experts and citizens whose concerns such as offshore wind's impact on electricity bills, and long-term climate issues need to be considered.

The Rhode Island Chapter of the National Citizens Climate Lobby recognizes the importance of offshore wind to Rhode Island. It boosts our economy. It improves stability and reliability of electricity supply. And it significantly contributes to reducing polluting emissions from fossil fuels while providing a significant portion of total energy needs of Rhode Island. Citizens Climate Lobby is in full support of H7727, The Offshore Wind Policy Procurement Commission Bill.

Sincerely,

Barbara K. Sullivan-Watts, Ph.D.

2 Locust Drive, Kingston

Senior Marine Research Scientist, Emerita

Graduate School of Oceanography

University of Rhode Island

State Coordinator, Rhode Island Citizens Climate Lobby