

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the House Corporations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H7727. I am an energy policy analyst, a Providence resident, a father, and the co-lead of Climate Action Rhode Island's Yes to Wind campaign.

Rhode Island is in desperate need to diversify our energy sources away from our current over-dependence on natural gas, which is driving high winter electricity prices. As such, we need another source of inexpensive, low-or-zero carbon power for fall and winter months that can be rapidly deployed at a massive scale. Offshore wind is the only resource that meets all of these criteria.

The Revolution Wind project, when fully online, will supply an estimated 19% of our state's current electricity demand at a price 27% lower than what we paid for supply this last winter. It has also employed over 1,000 workers in good-paying union jobs. Revolution Wind will help to reduce and stabilize winter power bills. But it is not enough. To fully decouple from the emissions, high prices, and wild price swings of natural gas, we need much more offshore wind.

This is particularly true as electricity demand is projected to rise in Rhode Island and throughout New England due to ongoing deployment of electric vehicles and heat pumps.

The Trump Administration has halted the progress of many of the potential offshore wind farms that could meet future demand. There are still two large projects that have either all federal permits or nearly all federal permits and could be built in 3-4 years after President Trump leaves office. That means that as early as 2032, we could have additional offshore wind online - but only if we plan for it.

H7727 does exactly that - it allows our state to begin planning for enough offshore wind to meet 57% of our current annual electricity demand, which is enough of a buffer to accommodate growth in power demand. It brings together all relevant stakeholders, including the utility and members of the labor, environmental community, to plan for this.

I strongly urge you to pass this important bill.

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