



**Testimony of RENEW Northeast before the
Rhode Island House Committee on Corporations
March 19, 2026**

**Supporting House Bill No. 7727
*AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- OFFSHORE WIND
PROCUREMENT POLICY STUDY COMMISSION***

Chair Solomon and members of the House Corporations Committee,

My name is Francis Pullaro. I am the President of RENEW Northeast (“RENEW”), an association uniting environmental advocates and developers and operators of the region’s largest clean energy projects, which include hydropower, offshore wind, land-based wind, solar, transmission, and energy storage. RENEW’s mission involves coordinating the ideas and resources of its members with the goal of increasing environmentally sustainable energy generation in New England from the region’s abundant renewable energy resources.¹

The bill creates a commission to study whether Rhode Island should have an offshore wind procurement program with evaluation criteria, labor and workforce standards, and contract pricing mechanisms identified by the commission to support a pathway to procure 1,200 megawatts of offshore wind by the year 2030. The Office of Energy Resources (“OER”) is required to initiate a rulemaking to implement the recommendations of the commission except those OER determines are not in the public interest. RENEW supports this approach for securing valuable offshore wind energy resources with its emphasis on ensuring consumer benefit.

Delivering more clean energy, particularly offshore wind, to Rhode Island will lower costs to consumers, meet rising demand, and lead to successful implementation of statutory climate and reliability goals. Clean energy provides a solution to soften the burden experienced by ratepayers from natural gas and oil volatility, which remain the key driver of electricity price spikes particularly during the periods of prolonged cold spells when gas pipelines become constrained. A [recent report](#) prepared for RENEW explains why offshore wind gives New Englanders significant affordability and health benefits especially during the winter season.

RENEW would be pleased to work with the Committee to continue to find ways to lower the cost of renewable energy, decrease the region’s dependence on fossil fuels, and ensure a significant role for renewable energy resources that will boost Rhode Island’s economy. Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Contact: Francis Pullaro, President
RENEW Northeast, Inc.
Email: fpullaro@renew-ne.org
Web: www.renew-ne.org

¹ This testimony represents the views of RENEW and not necessarily those of any particular member of RENEW.