



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

March 19, 2026

Rhode Island General Assembly
House Committee on Corporations
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Written Testimony in Support of the Rhode Island HB 7727/ S 2661, An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers - Offshore Wind Procurement Policy Study Commission

BlueGreen Alliance (BGA) is a national coalition of fifteen labor unions and environmental organizations, many of which have locals and chapters in Rhode Island. The mission of BGA is to unify labor unions and environmental organizations into a powerful force to fight climate change, protect the health of people and the environment, stand against economic and racial inequality, and create and maintain good-paying, union jobs in communities across the country.

In the United States, we face the dual crises of climate change and increasing economic inequality, and for far too long, we have allowed the forces driving both crises to create a wedge between the need for economic security and a livable environment. We are also currently facing federal regulatory uncertainty and an energy affordability crisis that threatens to derail our climate goals. Our response to this moment is critical—we can and we must address these crises simultaneously. Responsibly developed offshore wind energy presents an unequivocal opportunity to do so.

According to the state's Road to 100% Electricity Report¹, Rhode Island needs up to 1,100 MW of offshore wind to meet its 100% Renewable Energy Standard (RES), but only 430 MW has been procured. As the first state in the nation to build offshore wind, Rhode Island is a leader and now is not the time for the state to back away from its commitment and leadership.

Establishing an Offshore Wind Procurement Policy Study Commission to develop a strategy for Rhode Island to procure 1,200 MW of offshore wind energy during a time of federal regulatory uncertainty is a powerful way for the state to demonstrate its continued commitment to

¹ The Brattle Group and Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, The Road to 100% Renewable Electricity by 2030 in Rhode Island. December 2020.
<https://energy.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur741/files/documents/renewable/The-Road-to-100-Percent-Renewable-Electricity---Brattle-04Feb2021.pdf>

decarbonization and offshore wind development and send strong market signals to the developers who are building these large-scale infrastructure projects offshore.

Offshore wind is a vital clean energy solution that presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity. To meet this pivotal moment, projects must be developed in an equitable and environmentally responsible manner—with high-road labor standards and attention to environmental justice.

For ratepayers, offshore wind is a reliable, domestic energy source that will help with the rising costs of energy, due in part to global geopolitical events, by providing stable long-term, fixed price 20–30-year contracts. The addition of offshore wind generation will also aid in diversifying the state’s energy mix, thereby strengthening the grid.

For workers and communities, offshore wind projects have the potential to create family-sustaining, union jobs, deliver benefits to communities hardest hit by climate change and economic inequality, and protect wildlife and critical habitats at every stage of development.

This Study Commission will help the State to develop durable, thoughtful approaches to future offshore wind procurement by having a diverse body of stakeholders made up of representatives from state government; the traditional and renewable energy industries; as well as from labor, environmental, ratepayer and environmental justice organizations.

Establishing this commission will also initiate a necessary state process to decide on the right procurement authority in pursuit of an attainable 1200MW offshore wind goal and determine opportunities for regional collaboration. Rhode Island can coordinate with other states to maximize the benefits in transmission and port infrastructure build out, job creation, supply chain, and workforce development. Coordination on strong labor standards can create the most benefit for local communities and clarity for developers. This is the best path forward for meeting our climate goals, addressing our energy needs, and creating good jobs for workers and communities.

In closing, we share the goal of seeing Rhode Island meet its climate and economic development goals. We believe this legislation aligns with that mission and commits the state to a process that will get Rhode Island there.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

Signed,
Lisa Wood
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BlueGreen Alliance