

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the committee, my name is Stacey Snow and live in Cumberland. I am submitting testimony in support of H7727, the Offshore Wind Policy Procurement Commission bill. Offshore wind is critical to the renewable energy future in Rhode Island. The industry is currently on pause due to the actions of the Trump administration, but it is important that Rhode Island and the other New England states continue to send strong market signals to offshore wind developers with existing and potential future offshore wind leases. They need to know that there will be continued opportunities for them to sell power into the New England grid. We need to take this time to implement measures to derisk future offshore wind development and one of the key areas where that can be accomplished is through procurement strategies. Offshore wind projects can take up to ten years from start to finish and that is a long time to invest capital without a guaranteed return on investment. The more secure the procurement process and the closer that it can be to final investment decision, the lower the risk for the developers. Ensuring adequate supply chains and a trained workforce are also crucial to reducing risk, reducing costs and promoting project success. The efforts of a commission like the one envisioned in this bill can be instrumental in developing policies and strategies that can support offshore wind development and facilitate multistate coordination to achieve the goal of 1,200 MW of offshore wind by 2030.