



March 18, 2026

House Corporations Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Opposition to House Bill 7876 – An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers –  
Affordable Clean Energy Security Act**

Chair Solomon, Vice Chairs O'Brien and Caldwell, and Members of the Committee:

NextEra Energy Resources (NextEra) submits this letter in opposition to House Bill 7876, which would amend the Affordable Clean Energy Security Act to explicitly exclude nuclear power from participation in state and regional energy procurement processes. We respectfully urge the Committee to reject this legislation. The exclusion of nuclear power from Rhode Island's procurement framework would remove one of the region's most dependable and affordable clean energy resources from consideration to the detriment of Rhode Island consumers and the broader regional grid.

**Existing clean energy, including nuclear energy, can play a significant role in helping the state meet its goals cost-effectively today, while still ensuring reliability for the region**

NextEra appreciates the work undertaken to date by this Committee to ensure the State of Rhode Island can meet its clean energy goals and continue to keep energy reliability and affordable for ratepayers. Nuclear energy is carbon-emissions free and our region's most cost-effective tool to combat climate change. NextEra is the majority owner and operator of Seabrook Station (Seabrook), a nuclear power plant that generates enough electricity to power 1.4 million homes and businesses, roughly 9% of New England's power supply. Seabrook is a vital regional asset and is poised to play an even greater role as states across the region continue to work together to meet clean energy goals at an affordable cost to consumers.

The Public Utilities Commission's ability to evaluate proposed projects against the state's climate goals is best served by preserving a full range of zero-carbon options, including nuclear power. A procurement framework that arbitrarily limits the eligible resource mix undermines the state's ability to achieve its emissions reduction targets in the most cost-effective and reliable manner. Existing nuclear energy that is connected to the regional grid also significantly reduces New England's demand for natural gas, which helps keep energy costs low for consumers. Nuclear plants such as Seabrook operate around the clock — including during the hottest summer days when demand peaks and during the coldest winter months when natural gas supply is constrained and diverted to heating needs. Critically, Seabrook's operation displaces the equivalent output of approximately three 400 MW combined cycle gas facilities, helping to reduce regional natural gas demand and keep energy costs lower for consumers across all of New England, including Rhode Island ratepayers.

The Affordable Clean Energy Security Act was designed, in part, to provide mechanisms for managing energy price volatility and ensuring long-term price stability for Rhode Island consumers. Long-term power purchase contracts with cost-effective resources — including nuclear — provide a hedge against volatile commodity prices. Global events have demonstrated how quickly energy prices can spike when markets are not anchored

by stable, long-term supply commitments. Arbitrarily removing nuclear from this framework limits the state's ability to achieve the most competitive outcomes for ratepayers and undermines the core purposes of the Act.

### **Rhode Island should align with regional trends, not diverge from them**

Other New England states have recognized the value of nuclear energy in achieving their clean energy and reliability objectives. Massachusetts, Maine, and Connecticut have enacted legislation authorizing long-term contracts for clean energy resources, including nuclear resources, and have moved to include nuclear in its long-term procurement frameworks, mostly recently Connecticut's issuance of an RFP for clean energy resources issued on January 30, 2026. Rhode Island risks placing itself at a competitive disadvantage and limiting its access to regionally coordinated, cost-effective clean energy solutions by moving in the opposite direction. Multistate procurement processes — in which Rhode Island is explicitly authorized to participate under the existing Affordable Clean Energy Security Act — are most effective and most beneficial to ratepayers when the eligible resource pool includes all viable zero-carbon options, including nuclear. In addition, long-term agreements provide a hedge for buyers against market fluctuations in the energy market, which is highly dependent on gas pricing.

### **Conclusion**

NextEra respectfully urges the Committee to oppose House Bill 7876. Excluding nuclear power from Rhode Island's energy procurement framework is a step in the wrong direction — one that limits competition, undermines ratepayer protections, and conflicts with the state's clean energy and reliability objectives. We encourage the General Assembly to preserve a technology-neutral approach that allows all cost-effective, reliable, and clean energy resources to compete on their merits.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments,

*Michelle C. Gardner*

Michelle C. Gardner  
Executive Director, Regulatory Affairs – Northeast