

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman, House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

RE: H-7876 – Relating to Public Utilities & Carriers – Exclusion of Nuclear Power

Dear Chairman Solomon:

On behalf of Rhode Island Energy, I write in strong **opposition** to H-7876, which attempts to reverse a 2025 law enabling competitive procurement of nuclear electricity. That legislation (H-5575A) was passed with overwhelming support by the House of Representatives. In fact, the sponsors of H-7876 *also* voted to support that legislation. **Importantly, Rhode Island Energy is actively utilizing this important authority, having recently joined neighboring states and utilities on a multi-jurisdictional, competitive procurement that offers the potential to secure cost-efficient, carbon-free electricity consistent with affordability and Act on Climate goals.**

Rhode Island Energy provides essential energy services to more than 770,000 customers across the state through the delivery of electricity and natural gas. Our team of 1,300+ union and non-union employees is dedicated to helping Rhode Island customers and communities thrive, while supporting the transition to a cleaner energy future in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner.

Our Company appreciates the leadership shown by Chairman Solomon and many other Representatives in advancing this authority last session. On January 30th, Rhode Island Energy joined state agencies and utilities from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont in the issuance of a competitive procurement for zero emissions resources, including existing nuclear resources. Importantly, the law does not mandate contracts or have anything to do with siting nuclear generation units; rather, it enables Rhode Island Energy to receive and evaluate proposals for electricity and associated environmental attributes that can help advance energy affordability and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. This is energy which will be generated and purchased by other states even if none is purchased by Rhode Island. If, after thorough evaluation, it is determined that the Company has received commercially reasonable pricing and terms that are beneficial for its customers, the law requires thorough regulatory review by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

At a time when both affordability and adequacy of generation availability are front and center in the debate on energy policy in Rhode Island and across the region, we should be expanding the tools at our disposal, *not reducing them*. Respectfully, we urge the Committee to reject H-7876 in its entirety.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Nicholas S. Ucci
Director of Government Affairs
Rhode Island Energy

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Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "NSU", written over a light blue circular background.

Nicholas S. Ucci
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations
The Honorable Jennifer Stewart, House of Representatives