

March 17, 2026

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

**RE: Opposition to H7876 – Affordable Clean Energy Security Act**

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc., owner and operator of the Millstone Power Station in Waterford, Connecticut, we respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to H7876, legislation that would exclude nuclear power from Rhode Island's long-term energy procurement options.

The General Assembly already considered this policy question recently. In June 2025, the legislature passed and the Governor signed Chairman Solomon's bill H5575A, legislation that recognized the value of including nuclear energy as part of Rhode Island's long-term contracting strategy for electricity. That law appropriately allows Rhode Island Energy to procure reliable, cost-effective, carbon-free electricity—including nuclear power—as part of its energy portfolio.

The bill before you, H7876 would reverse that policy direction by prohibiting nuclear energy from participation in these procurement programs.

**Nuclear Energy Supports Affordability for Rhode Island Consumers**

Energy affordability is a central concern for Rhode Island households and businesses. Nuclear power is uniquely positioned to help address this challenge because it provides stable, predictable, long-term electricity pricing that shields consumers from the volatility associated with fossil fuel markets.

Millstone Power Station—the largest source of carbon-free electricity in New England—produces more than 16 million megawatt-hours of electricity annually, enough to power approximately two million homes. As the only nuclear power facility in Connecticut, Millstone plays a critical role in maintaining the stability of the regional electric grid by providing consistent, dependable baseload power regardless of weather conditions or time of day.

Allowing Rhode Island to contract for nuclear power enables the state to secure stable long-term energy supplies at competitive prices, protecting consumers from sudden spikes in electricity costs and strengthening regional energy security.

## **Nuclear Power Strengthens Regional Energy Reliability**

As electricity demand continues to grow across New England due to electrification and economic growth, maintaining a diverse and reliable energy mix is essential. Nuclear energy is a cornerstone of grid reliability because it provides continuous power generation.

Across the United States, nuclear power plants operate at an average capacity factor of approximately 93 percent, making nuclear power the most reliable source of electricity on the grid and the nation's largest source of clean electricity.

Facilities such as Millstone help ensure that the New England electric system remains stable even during extreme weather events or periods of high demand. Removing nuclear power from Rhode Island's procurement options would reduce the flexibility needed to maintain a resilient regional grid.

## **Nuclear Energy Supports Climate Goals While Maintaining Safety**

Nuclear energy is a carbon-free source of electricity that plays a major role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining reliable power supplies. It is also one of the most highly regulated and safest forms of energy generation, operating under rigorous federal oversight and multiple layers of safety protections.

Across the country, nuclear plants supply more than 18 percent of the nation's electricity and represent the largest source of clean power in the United States.

Including nuclear energy as part of Rhode Island's procurement strategy supports the state's climate goals while ensuring that the transition to a cleaner energy system remains reliable and affordable.

## **Regional Collaboration Benefits Rhode Island**

H5575A also recognized the importance of **regional collaboration in securing clean energy resources**. By allowing Rhode Island to participate in multi-state procurement efforts, the law helps strengthen New England's energy system while diversifying Rhode Island's electricity supply. Nuclear energy—including power generated at Millstone—can play a critical role in these cooperative regional strategies.

## **Conclusion**

At a time when policymakers are seeking solutions to rising electricity costs and increasing energy demand, nuclear power offers Rhode Island a proven path to affordability, reliability, and carbon-free electricity.

The General Assembly acknowledged this reality when it passed H5575A in 2025, enabling Rhode Island Energy to include nuclear power as part of its long-term energy procurement strategy. H7876 would reverse that progress by unnecessarily removing nuclear energy from the state's energy toolkit.

For these reasons, Dominion Nuclear Connecticut respectfully urges the Committee to oppose H7876 and preserve Rhode Island's ability to pursue a diverse, reliable, and affordable energy portfolio.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

**Susan Adams**

Director of State Policy, Dominion Energy Millstone Nuclear Power Station