

Testimony in opposition to H7524: House Resolution— Gas Pipeline Expansion

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To Chair Solomon and the honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee:

All of the studies over the last decade that were looking at our energy future, the 2021 RI Act on Climate, and the recent “Future of Gas” docket unanimously agree that Rhode Island must rapidly transition from gas (and other fossil fuels) to renewable alternatives.

95% of new energy generation in the world over the last year has been from solar, wind and battery storage. In the US it has been 91%. The reason is that renewables are in effect the least expensive and technologically superior alternative. Consequently—and as the global reality demonstrates—nobody on their sane mind invests into fossil fuels and gas anymore.

In other words: **Gas has no future.**

Why on earth would we contemplate a resolution to expand existing gas pipelines? Are the sponsors of the resolution blind to the fact that gas locks us into the most expensive alternative, and that reliance on gas leaves us with a dependency on international gas and oil markets? Do they watch the news? Do they realize that fossil fuels prices are skyrocketing because of our attack on Iran, as they were when Russia’s attack on Ukraine started?

Do they nevertheless want to pile on, with more investment into gas, leaving RI with expensive stranded gas assets while the rest of the world and of our nation moves to renewables as the least expensive alternative?

Please do NOT bring this ill-conceived House Resolution to a vote.

Thank you very much for considering my input.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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