

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

George Voutes, 17 Shore Road, Bristol RI, 02809

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2026

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

Please find attached my testimony **in opposition to H7524: House Resolution—Gas Pipeline Expansion**.

Countless studies, including 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. This is not conjecture, but hard factual science and economics that tells us where we need to go and now quickly to get there.

Gas (including Methane Gas) is no longer a viable energy solution. Nearly all new energy built and generated in the US and around the world came from wind, solar and batteries last year. Why is this happening? Because renewables are cheaper, cleaner, and more resilient to price swings at home and on the world markets. Gas is also more inefficient and subject to global geo-political swings (like we are seeing in Iran currently).

The sponsors of this negligent bill are out of touch with the benefits that renewable energy brings (lower costs, more excellent jobs, and more revenue staying in RI). These same sponsors are also under the spell of the fossil fuel industry and the fictitious promises this self-serving and harmful industry has/and continues to have on RI residents and the natural world RI.

Who in their right mind (and with the best for all RI residents) would propose such an abhorrent bill? Ask these sponsors who in RI wants new Gas pipelines, and the ecological destruction they bring to our public lands and neighborhoods? The price of fossil fuel energy is not going down, ever! As more renewables come on line, fossil fuel companies will raise prices to protect their margins, increasing further energy cost to RI families and business still reliant on natural gas energy.

Let’s stop the nonsense here, and move judiciously away from more natural gas pipelines, more gas hook ups, more gas infrastructure, and more high gas energy prices. Please do NOT bring this foolish bill to a vote. The future is sustainable renewable energy. Just ask any 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Thank you very much for considering my input.

*George Voutes*