

Testimony in support of H7891: House Resolution to Terminate Gas Line Extension Allowances

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

When will we ever stop incentivizing “natural” gas?

According to the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council’s 2025 Climate Action Strategy there needs to be a reduction in the use of gas for home heating in order to meet the State’s 2030, 2040, and 2050 emissions reduction requirements.

Globally, 95% of recent new energy generation is from solar, wind and batteries; in the U.S., it has been 91% in the first half of 2025.

Nobody in their sane mind installs new fossil-based energy anymore—its just too expensive.

The logical action would be to disincentivize gas and to further incentivize renewable energy to seed-up the renewables transition. Illogically, though, the Governor with his budget cuts the renewable energy charge that supports renewables from the utility bills, but finds nothing wrong with letting Rhode Island Energy spread over all gas customers the cost of connecting new customers to the gas distribution system. It should be the exact opposite.

On the other hand, it’s logical again, because Rhode Island Energy is part of the fossil fuel industry, and would love to do anything to just burn gas a little longer. Concerns about the environment, the climate, and about affordability instead of locking another customer into gas as the more expensive alternative, for decades to come, do not seem to matter for Rhode Island Energy, nor for the Governor.

I support the resolution, because it shuts this nonsense down and because it honors the fact that we need to get out of gas as fast as possible.

I have no problem to pay my share to incentivize renewables, but I have a big problem with paying for allowances for more gas infrastructure and future stranded assets that will be left to be bailed out by the tax payers, while the executives of the fossil fuel industry enjoy their outrageously high bonuses.

Please bring the resolution to a vote in 2026.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Cortvriend for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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