

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the House Corporations Committee, my name is Barbara Watts and I live in Kingston, Rhode Island. As State Coordinator for the Rhode Island Chapter of [Citizens Climate Lobby](#) I am submitting testimony in support of H8519 - An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Renewable Energy Standard. Citizens Climate Lobby is a national, non-partisan organization that advocates for reduction in the the polluting emissions produced by burning fossil fuels. We have over 800 members in Rhode Island.

We support H8519 because it recognizes that now is not the time to alter state law mandating changes in the timeline to reach 100% renewable energy. We applaud Representatives Carson and Shekarchi for introducing this bill that would halt a reckless move at a point when renewable energy development is recognized worldwide as the most reliable, least expensive and cleanest energy resource. It also provides a transparent pathway to continuing study of the issue.

The prices of solar power and batteries are continuing to decline rapidly, and offshore wind technology continues to mature globally. The coastal ocean offshore of Rhode Island is an ideal place to build offshore wind where the wind is exceptionally strong and consistent, the shallow coastal waters (the continental shelf) decrease costs of construction, and there is high electricity demand near the shore. Revolution wind will soon be supplying much of our power needs at a stable price. This is certainly a more promising picture than continuing to depend on natural gas we must buy from out of state and whose price fluctuates unpredictably. Models produced by experts in the Union of Concerned Scientists show that offshore wind will reduce both risks of winter blackouts from storms and reduce costs of electricity in winter <https://www.ucs.org/about/news/new-england-offshore-wind-protects-against-winter-blackout-risk>.

As an arm of the nationally based, non-profit [Citizens Climate Lobby](#) we urge you to show other states that Rhode Island will continue to be a leader in addressing climate change and promoting renewable energy where it will benefit our state's citizens.

Sincerely,

Barbara K. Watts, State Coordinator Citizens Climate Lobby, RI Chapter