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Rhode Island Works Best When We Say **UNION YES.**

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chair, House Corporations Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: *Support for H-8519: An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Renewable Energy Standard*

Dear Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 80,000 union members of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO and our affiliated local unions, I write in support of House Bill 8519 introduced by Representative Carson. This legislation strikes the right balance between addressing ratepayer concerns, maintaining compliance with both the RES and the Act on Climate (AOC), and investing in good union jobs in the local energy sector.

Maintaining a strong RES supports long-term energy price stability by encouraging the development of local energy resources that are not tied to the volatility of regional fuel markets. Expanding in-state energy generation, including solar, storage, offshore wind, and other distributed resources, helps Rhode Island reduce its dependence on imported fuels while strengthening grid reliability and creating local economic opportunity, while protecting ratepayers from cost spikes.

H-8519 preserves the state's RES mandate of 100% by 2033 while proposing core changes to the existing statute (RIGL 39-26) that would secure both short- and long-term ratepayer savings.

First, this proposal provides the utility with compliance flexibility by allowing up to 20% of obligations to be met with existing clean or zero-emission resources, including nuclear and large-scale hydropower. By expanding the pool of eligible clean energy resources you can create more opportunities for long-term contracts that can stabilize pricing and reduce volatility for ratepayers. Rhode Island has historically benefited from these types of agreements; for example, the Revolution Wind contract is priced at roughly 9 cents/ KWh, significantly below the average 28-32 cents/KWh residential customers pay today.

Additionally, H-8519 includes several reforms designed to reduce future compliance costs. It establishes a flat \$50.00 Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) with no annual adjustment indexed to the consumer price index (CPI). By eliminating the CPI inflator, we can provide greater long-term cost certainty while aligning Rhode Island with neighboring states like Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The ACP effectively acts as a price ceiling for Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), lowering and stabilizing it can help reduce compliance costs during periods of market scarcity or elevated REC prices. Importantly, this bill preserves 100% of ACP payments for the Renewable Energy Fund housed at Rhode Island Commerce and used to support in-state renewable energy development.

Lastly, this bill allows for the banking of RECs for up to 3-years without a percentage CAP compared to 2-years with a CAP of 30%. This change gives utilities greater flexibility to purchase credits when prices are low and avoid passing sudden market prices onto ratepayers.

Patrick Crowley [President](#) • Karen Hazard [Secretary-Treasurer](#)  
Cheryl Masciarelli [Office Manager](#) • Autumn Guillotte [Political Director](#) • Erica Hammond [Legislative Director](#)



The Rhode Island AFL-CIO is committed to working collaboratively with the Administration, the General Assembly, and other stakeholders to identify practical solutions that preserve market stability, meet the Renewable Energy Standard, support economic growth, and provide meaningful relief for Rhode Island families.

Rhode Island has established itself as a national leader in clean energy development and climate action, and we believe maintaining that leadership remains important for both our economy and workforce. Preserving that leadership sends a strong signal that our state remains committed to supporting intentional investments in modern energy infrastructure, and the workforce that is helping shape the future of our economy.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island AFL-CIO urges the Committee to support House Bill 8519. We look forward to continuing to work with the Administration, the General Assembly, and stakeholders to find a reasonable path forward on this important issue. Thank you for your time and consideration, along with the opportunity to provide written testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 401-751-7100 should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erica A. Hammond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erica" being the most prominent part.

Erica A. Hammond  
Legislative Director, Rhode Island AFL-CIO