

Representative Joseph Solomon, Chair
House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives

May 12th, 2026

RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Supports House Bill 8519

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the committee,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, **I write in strong support of House Bill 8519, sponsored by Representative Carson and former Speaker Joseph Shekarchi.** This bill amends the Renewable Energy Standard to allow for greater procurement of existing resources and lowers the alternative compliance payment for obligated entities.

Rhode Island Must Remain on Track to Achieve Act on Climate Goals

The Act on Climate mandates that Rhode Island reduce its total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45% by 2030 and net zero by 2050. According to the 2025 Climate Action Strategy (CAS), approved by the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) in December 2025, Rhode Island is approximately on track to meet the 2030 AOC target under current existing policies. We would like to note that our assessment is that the EC4 report is overly optimistic in the achievable emissions reductions and that new policies are needed to meet the mandate. Regardless, Sections 3 and 8 of H7127 will significantly reduce the likelihood of Rhode Island achieving those targets.

Figure 3: Economy-wide GHG Emissions Under the Current Policy Scenario

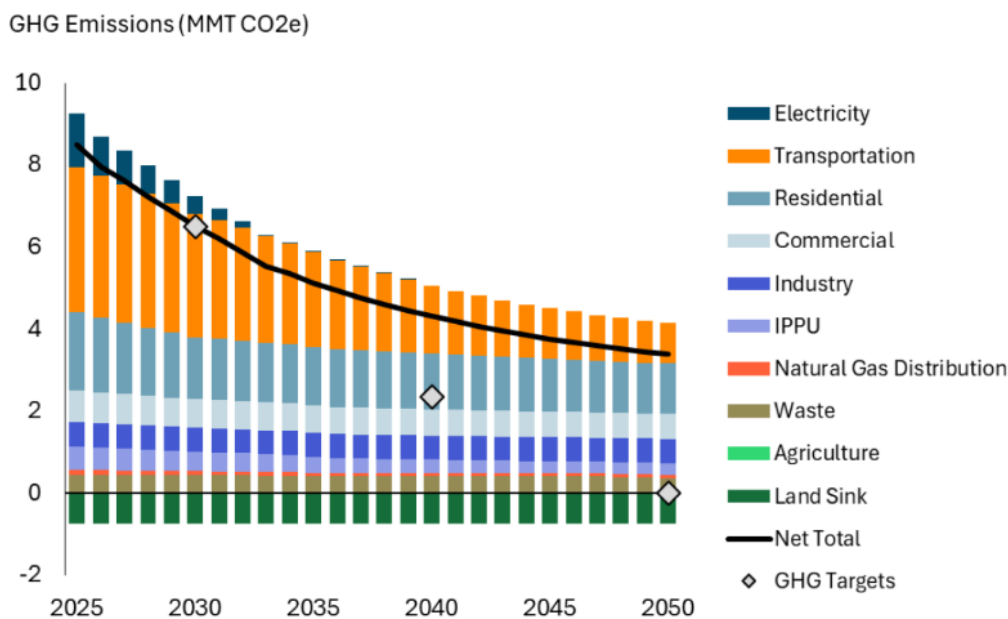


Image from 2025 Rhode Island Climate Action Strategy, pg. 12.

After the Senate Finance Committee hearing on February 10th, it became clear that our state agencies are weakening their resolve to meet the mandates in the Act on Climate. We analyzed a few comments made by Chris Kearns, the Acting Commissioner of the Office of Energy Resources and Linda George, Administrator of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers in a recent blog: [Rhode Island State Agencies Give Up on Clean Energy and The Act on Climate](#).

With state agencies seemingly conceding state climate mandates, the legislature must remain firmly committed to the Act on Climate and the opportunity to create an affordable energy future through renewable energy deployment. This bill does just that, reaffirms Rhode Island's commitments to the Renewable Energy Standard, while acknowledging the importance of ensuring energy affordability.

Clean Energy is Affordable Energy

Renewable energy resources like wind and solar are the resources that will provide energy stability and security to Rhode Islanders. Because the New England region does not have supplies of natural gas, we must import this fuel from around the US, or from out of the country. This keeps our energy costs tied to the global market, and when geopolitical events cause prices to surge, we see prices here spike. Ensuring our Renewable Energy Standard requires 100% clean electricity by 2033 will promote the development of more renewable energy resources, driving the state towards an affordable energy future. The build out of renewable energy also supports local jobs, reduces air pollution, and encourages investment in our local economy. Each of these factors keeps energy spending within the state and region, and positions Rhode Island as a leader in this sector.

Feedback on Renewable Energy Credit Banking

One component of this legislation that Green Energy Consumers wanted to offer feedback in is with the allowance of banking Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for three years and allows an unlimited quantity of banked RECs to be used for RES compliance in a given compliance year. The previous limitations were allowing REC banking for 2 years, and only 30% of an obligated entity's RES compliance could be met with banked RECs. Green Energy Consumers feels that allowing an unlimited quantity of banked RECs to be used for compliance is more generous than necessary to support RES compliance and could distort market signals in a way that produces unintended consequences.

Green Energy Consumers Alliance thanks Representative Carson for introducing this important legislation and urges the Committee and full General Assembly to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,

Tina Munter, RI Policy Advocate

Green Energy Consumers Alliance

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