



# OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

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March 25, 2026

The Honorable David A. Bennett  
Chairperson  
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: H 7917 – An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government – Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council – Mandatory Act On Climate Compliance In State Budgeting And Planning**

Dear Chairperson Bennett:

Thank you for providing the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) with the opportunity to respectfully submit this letter of opposition in response to House Bill No. 7917. This bill would require that state departments and agencies integrate the recommendations contained in the 2025 Act on Climate strategy report into their operating and capital budget requests.

OMB is not commenting on the overall merits of the legislation but rather wishes to raise technical concerns. The bill would require agencies to complete quantified emissions impact assessments for proposed budget and capital projects. Estimating anticipated greenhouse gas emission impacts for these proposals requires a high level of technical expertise that is limited to a small handful of individuals within State government. As such, agencies, including OMB, will likely require additional resources and external contracted services to comply. This requirement will also act as a bottleneck to agency budget submissions and could jeopardize our ability to meet the budget submission deadline as enumerated in the Rhode Island Constitution. Procuring external services and completing complex greenhouse gas emission modeling take a considerable amount of time and integrating these requirements, particularly into the fiscal year 2027 budget cycle which is well underway, is not possible.

Further, the Capital Improvement Plan and Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund (RICAP) lay out a five-year funding outlook for improvements and new projects. Once this plan is established, it is often difficult to find incremental funding to support scope changes or to account for more costly projects. This proposed legislation would require a complete upending of the five-year RICAP plan and does not allocate any additional funding to support the projects associated with the climate strategy report recommendations.

Finally, integrating these requirements into the budget development process would fundamentally alter the budget's function as the Governor's primary governing instrument. The budget serves as a cornerstone for the Governor's policy agenda in the legislative session – a comprehensive expression of executive priorities that must balance competing demands across agencies and programs. Basing budget and capital allocations primarily on the recommendations of the Act on Climate strategy report, itself an evolving document, would seriously constrain the administration's ability to allocate limited resources among numerous important needs.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our comments on this legislation with the Committee. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Daniels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Brian Daniels

Director, Office of Management and Budget

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
The Honorable Lauren H. Carson  
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Louis Mansolillo, Committee Clerk