

## **Testimony in support of H7917: Mandatory AoC Compliance in State Budgeting and Planning**

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To Chair Bennett and the honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

It is finally time to stop listening to the disinformation by the fossil fuel industry and Rhode Island Energy, and to do what the rest of the world and most of the US are doing: moving rapidly away from fossil fuel burning and towards renewable energy: **95% of new energy generation in the world in 2025 has been from solar, wind and battery storage, and in the US, it has been 91%**. Nobody in their sane mind invests in fossil fuel energy generation any more, because renewables are less expensive.

It seems absurd that the State of Rhode Island is spending money and effort to have EC4 write a Climate Action Strategy, and then needing a law to require the State Departments to actually integrate the recommendations from that strategy into their budgeting and planning.

And yet, bill H7917, which would eventually turn into that law, is necessary to require that the Governor and the State Departments comply with the Act on Climate and the Climate Action Strategy, instead of actively working against it (as is currently the plan with the Governor's budget).

Since there unfortunately is no other way to stop the Governor from putting a wrecking ball to the Act on Climate, and to stop burning more gas and oil to the detriment to Rhode Islanders, locking us into more and more unaffordable utility rates and blocking us from access to available, less expensive, clean and abundant renewable energy and electrification, I support H7917.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2026.

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



Dr. Hans Scholl

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