



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

March 25, 2026

The Honorable David A. Bennett  
Chair, House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
House Lounge, State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: *2026 – 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 Chair Bennett,

The Administration writes in opposition to 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 (Act). The Act requires state agencies and entities to integrate and implement “applicable recommendations” from the Rhode Island 2025 Climate Action Strategy report, as published in December 2025 by the Rhode Island Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council, into annual operating budget requests and capital budget submissions beginning with fiscal year 2027. The Act further requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to reject any agency budget or capital submission that fails to comply with this new requirement.

Article 9, section 15 of the Rhode Island Constitution vests the Governor with the exclusive power to “prepare and present to the general assembly an annual, consolidated operating and capital improvement state budget.” The Governor’s budget reflects his priorities, necessarily informed by the considered recommendations of expert agency leadership. Requiring those leaders to include budget items generated by others, and dictating what proposals the Governor can and cannot consider from his executive agencies, undermines the Governor’s ability to set his own budgetary policies and violates his constitutional power to prepare and present his consolidated budget.

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Given this constitutional infirmity and the additional concerns expressed by OMB, the Administration urges the Committee not to recommend passage of the Act. The Governor—as informed by his expert executive agencies and as is his constitutional prerogative—has already prepared and presented to the General Assembly an annual, consolidated operating and capital improvement state budget for fiscal year 2027 inclusive of his policy recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katherine E. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Katherine E. Miller

Deputy Executive Counsel

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Steven T. Hayes, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel