



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

March 25, 2026

The Honorable David A. Bennett
Chairman
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 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 Chairman Bennett,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide comment on H 7917, which would require state agencies to adopt and incorporate the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4)'s 2025 Climate Action Strategy (the Strategy) implementation options into state budgeting and planning processes. I write as Chairman of the EC4 to clarify the intended role of the 2025 Climate Action Strategy.

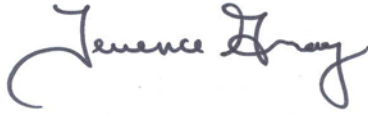
The EC4 designed the Strategy to serve as a strategic planning document, identifying a range of potential policy options available to state decision-makers. The report was intentionally structured as a menu of options, recognizing that different approaches carry varying fiscal, operational, and technical implications and may require further evaluation, including cost-benefit analysis, stakeholder engagement, and program design before implementation.

H 7917 would transform this strategic planning document into a set of mandatory directives. Doing so constrains the flexibility needed for agencies and the Administration to evaluate the recommendations and responsibly weigh these options against their cost impacts on ratepayers, taxpayers, families, and businesses when determining the most practical and affordable pathways to advance the State's climate objectives.

The EC4 strongly supports continued consideration of the Strategy's options for implementation, but it is important to note that the intention of the report was to be a tool to inform decision-making rather than a mandate requiring universal implementation.

Thank you for your consideration of these points.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terrence Gray". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director
Department of Environmental Management
Chairman
Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council

cc: Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
The Honorable Lauren Carson
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director