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TO OPPOSE H6144 SUB A, with SUPPORT FOR S634A and H6144

June 22, 2021

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

Continuation of Rhode Island's nationally recognized energy efficiency programs is a top priority for Rhode Island's CCL chapter in this legislative session.

These programs reduce the amount of electricity and petroleum products we need to heat and light our homes and run our businesses. They fund employment for electricians and other construction workers needed for improved insulation and energy management. These benefits are well recognized by Rhode Islanders. My wife and I know them first-hand, with our improved insulation, reduced heating costs, and greater electrical efficiencies, thanks to the present energy efficiency programs. The Senate Environment Committee hearing of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Report from RI Energy Efficiency Program) was a compelling demonstration of the ways these programs help so many of us.

Continuation of Rhode Island's energy efficiency and least cost procurement programs would be provided by your approval of Senate Bill 634 SUB A, already passed by that chamber. It would also be provided by your original House Bill 6144.

However, various revisions in the current 6144 Sub A seem precipitous, lack public scrutiny, and are non-contributory to continuation of the successful energy efficiency programs. Removal of the carefully controlled incentives for participating utilities, may prove deleterious. Possible expansion of the program to include other energy sectors may reduce funds available for well-documented efficiency projects. Energy that is saved, rather than used for unnecessary heating, cooling, and electricity services, is indeed the lowest cost. This benefit should not be sacrificed.

The remarkably beneficial Energy Efficiency & Least Cost Procurement law is due to expire soon. We must rely on energy efficiency to bring greenhouse gases under control, per the Act on Climate and the 100% RES by 2030 goal. Thus, this law must be renewed, and for long enough to maintain the program's durability.

Rhode Island's CCL chapter strongly supports passage of bills S634A and H6144 during the current General Assembly session. However, we oppose passage of the present SUB A for 6144.

Respectfully and sincerely,

*Peter G. Trafton*

Peter Trafton, MD

Citizens' Climate Lobby, Rhode Island