



**Representative Alex Marszalkowski, Chair**

**March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

House Committee on Finance – Subcommittee on General Government  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

**RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Supports the Office of Energy Resources in House Bill 5076**

Dear Chair Marszalkowski and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, **I write in strong support of the Office of Energy Resources (OER) in House Bill 5076** – the Governors proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

**OER Works to Support the Clean Energy Economy**

Many of the programs housed within the OER support clean energy and policy efforts like the state Lead by Example program, support for Rhode Islander's as they transition to clean energy and energy efficiency and addressing climate change. These essential functions help Rhode Island get closer to meeting our Act on Climate mandates and benefit from the funding and staff capacity allocated in each state budget. Increasing staff capacity as proposed, from 16 to 20 full-time equivalent positions, with three of those positions being for programming services officers allow the OER to expand the programs they currently offer, and work on the development of new programs that are critical to support the transition to clean energy in Rhode Island.

**Funding for a State Facilities Benchmarking and Performance Standards Program is Critical**

One specific project that was allocated funding in the proposed budget is the State Facilities Benchmarking and Performance Standards Program. This program is a critical first step for Rhode Island to begin addressing emissions from our building stock and allows the state to continue leading by example on important climate initiatives. With the funding of one full-time equivalent position in the proposed budget, the OER will be able to begin the development of this program. Though a benchmarking program only for state-owned and state-operated facilities is not as expansive as needed to truly address emissions from large public and private buildings in Rhode Island, it is the first step towards a larger program, and we are excited to see the program develop.

**Conclusion**

The Office of Energy Resources leads Rhode Island to a clean and equitable energy future. Ensuring funding for this agency will allow the state to continue leading on important issues like clean energy technology adoption and the growth of the clean energy economy. Green Energy Consumers Alliance thanks the Governor for continued funding of the Office and urges the Committee and full General Assembly to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,

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