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Tuesday, May 13, 2025

RE: House Bills # 5535:

To the Committee Clerk, Christopher O'Brien and Members of the Finance Committee,

Please accept my testimony and position on the aforementioned bill for careful consideration, with regard to my experience and expertise.

I hold a Master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Clark University. I am a renewable energy professional with 10 years of experience in the residential and commercial solar industry. I have helped hundreds of clients purchase solar systems and batteries for their homes and businesses, utilizing the incentives available in Rhode Island.

I urge you to support the bill change making behind-the-meter battery storage units tax exempt. We've already lost the HEAT Loan for middle income earners that made batteries more affordable for the average homeowner. The new SRP program greatly reduced Connected Solutions payments and payment terms for battery owners. We need as many benefits to help people add batteries to their homes and build a Rhode Island microgrid as possible.

With solar and battery pricing increasing due to the recently imposed tariffs, homeowners need any financial benefits possible. For small, family owned businesses like NEC Solar, battery units are an essential part of our business and a very popular request from our clientele. We need renewable energy solutions NOW and battery storage is the best way to reduce stress on the grid.

Please support the passage of this bill granting tax exemption for battery storage systems. It is so important for our state's energy future.

Thank you for your attention to my testimony.

Regards,

Dana Goodman

Dana Goodman, MA, Environmental Science and Policy

Solar Consultant and Outreach Program Director, NEC Solar