



Representative Marvin Abney, Chair

House Finance Committee

Rhode Island House of Representatives

May 13th, 2025

RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Supports House Bill 5779

Dear Chair Abney 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 House Bill 5779**, which would increase the oil spill prevention and response fee from 5 cents per barrel to 10 cents and add the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) as an allowable use of funds raised.

Funding the EC4 is Critical for Climate Change Mitigation

The EC4 is Rhode Island's main body that coordinates efforts between state agencies to follow the mandates in the Act on Climate. The Council also works with municipal governments and other organizations to increase public education and awareness about climate change and Rhode Island's plans to address and reduce emissions. However, the EC4 is only funded through an annual \$1,500,000 allocation from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Those proceeds are further allocated across a variety of programs submitted by organizations throughout the state focusing on topics like resilience, community outreach and engagement and promoting transit ridership, among others. This past year, program funding requests [exceeded \\$2.3](#) million across 19 projects, far surpassing the funding the EC4 has available to allocate.

The EC4 has also released several reports detailing what actions Rhode Island could take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet the mandates in the Act on Climate, and the next mandate of 45% emissions reductions below 1990 levels is now only 5 years away. The time is now for investing in solutions that drive investments in clean energy technologies like electric vehicles, heat pumps, and renewable energy. The EC4 is due to release another report this winter, the 2025 Climate Action Strategy which will include policies and programs that could be adopted to meet that 2030 mandate. By increasing the oil spill prevention and response fee by 5 cents and adding the EC4 as an allowable use of those funds, more money could be allocated to programs that help Rhode Island reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to enact the programs outlined in prior EC4 reports that have been modeled to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Conclusion

Passage of this bill will create an additional funding stream for the EC4, which is crucial for their work, and to support programs that would reduce state greenhouse gas emissions. Green Energy Consumers Alliance thanks Representative Cortvriend for introducing this important legislation and urges the Committee and full General Assembly to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,

Tina Munter, RI Policy Advocate

Green Energy Consumers Alliance

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