

Dear members of the House Committee on Finance,

I respectfully urge you to reject Article 11 sections 3 and 8 in Governor McKee's budget.

The first will result in a 17-year delay to the Renewable Energy Standard (Article 11, Section 8).

The second will place a cap on energy efficiency programs. (Article 11, Section 3).

As we have seen this week, geopolitical events make Rhode Island's dependence on fossil fuels a dangerous proposition for our state's and our residents' fiscal well-being. **Oil prices have risen 20 percent since last weekend's strikes on Iran.** As we attempt to emerge from a period of inflation where the day-to-day costs of life present a huge challenge to many Rhode Islanders—from groceries to utilities—reverting to dependence on imported oil and gas, rather than sticking with local, clean energy whose prices continue to fall, and whose growth spurs excellent jobs for Rhode Islanders in offshore wind and solar, is irresponsible.

Promoting energy efficiency is truly a no-brainer. Energy we don't waste makes economic sense. Energy we don't use means we have dollars to spend elsewhere.

Further, if we delay the Renewable Energy Standard (RES), we destroy local businesses and livelihoods. Within Rhode Island Energy's monopoly, consumers have little choice but to pay eye-watering amounts for utilities each month. The RES allows Rhode Islanders to support the grid, stabilize and eventually lower prices, and buffer against volatility.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gillian Kiley

Cranston, RI