

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
RI House of Representatives
March 4, 2026

OPPOSITION to H7127 Article 11 Sections 3-11

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of Glocester and a member of Climate Action Rhode Island. I am writing in opposition to the proposed FY27 budget items in Article 11 Sections 3-11. In Section 3, trimming Rhode Island's nationally recognized energy efficiency programs is shortsighted. Sure, reducing the amount of money earmarked for these successful programs will lower ratepayer bills in the short term and produce the desired effect at the polls. But, these programs cannot be cut if we expect to reduce our energy usage **and** our bills well into the future. All voters would love to see their energy bills reduced. That is why we should be expanding the energy efficiency programs, to include those folks being left behind, rather than relying on short term pipe dream promises. If energy bills come down at all this year (and that looks unlikely), it is due to Revolution Wind sending low cost electricity to the grid. We need to be focusing on renewables, not on high cost nuclear fantasies.

In Section 8, the dismantling of the Renewable Energy Standard is also shortsighted as it will increase the state's demand for fossil fuels which I'm sure will result in higher prices especially with the Middle East fiasco. Even if the U.S. has all the fossil fuels we need, prices are still dictated by world markets. If we think the fossil fuel companies are going to suddenly sprout a conscience, just look at their concern for climate change!

This is exactly where fossil fuel companies and the federal administration want us - more dependent on dirty energies and paying more for them. Rhode Island is being played and some of us are falling for it. Rhode Island leadership is seemingly oblivious to the trap. The fossil fuel companies and the government they control are grinning all the way to the bank. So there goes our Act on Climate. Rhode Island needs to work to keep our energy dollars in state. We need to develop more solar, wind, and energy storage projects without levying project-killing taxes and fees especially with the Middle East turmoil.

Thank you for reading my testimony and please oppose these disastrous cuts.

Sincerely,
Joel Gates 15 Elmdale Rd, Glocester, RI. 02857

