

February 25, 2026

Testimony in opposition to Governor McKee's FY27 budget proposal, including:

- a 17-year delay to the Renewable Energy Standard (Article 11, Section 7)
- a proposal to add a grid access fee to large-scale solar (Article 11, Section 10)
- a cap on energy efficiency programs (Article 11, Section 3)

Dear Chair Abney and honorable members of the House Finance Committee:

Renewables are the cheapest form of energy, full stop.¹ Slashing investments in clean energy consumer programs and further delaying the transition to cleaner, safer, sustainable energy technologies is the opposite of “affordable.”

While other forward-thinking New England states proactively reduce consumer energy costs and toxic emissions², Rhode Island is doubling down on an outdated system. These budget proposals lock us into decades of fossil fuel use. The people of Rhode Island will be on the hook for Rhode Island Energy's unrelenting expansion of and upgrades to natural gas pipelines and infrastructure. Rhode Islanders already pay more for pipelines and distribution than for gas itself.³

Rhode Islanders deserve a viable, long-term affordability plan, not one based on election year optics.

I respectfully urge you to put the wallets and health of Rhode Island residents first: oppose any budget provisions that weaken the Renewable Energy Standard, slow the transition to clean energy, or undermine energy efficiency programs. Stand firm on climate legislation.

Jessica Allen



Barrington, Rhode Island

Sources:

¹ <https://ourworldindata.org/cheap-renewables-growth>

² <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/news-releases/news-releases---2025/connecticut-and-new-england-state-partners-announce-clean-energy-selections>

and

<https://eelp.law.harvard.edu/cleanlaw-how-maine-became-a-heat-pump-leader/>

³ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RimJSA6XOhVuNK94TwTK53pSeVIdihvS/view>