

March 4, 2026

House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chair Abney and members of the Committee,

My name is Caitlyn, I live in Providence. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Sections 3 and 8 in Article 11 of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. To meet our climate emissions reductions, we must take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support deployment of clean energy. These budget sections slash investment in energy efficiency and clean energy, and they move Rhode Island further away from meeting our climate mandates.

As the state with the most progressive climate mandate in the country, it is crucial that we commit to national leadership in not only setting, but upholding, our climate commitments. Delaying our Renewable Energy Standard by 17 years (Article 11, Section 8) is frankly ridiculous and disgraceful. And putting a cap on energy efficiency programs (Article 11, Section 3) in the name of affordability is incredibly misleading. You have a commitment to Rhode Islanders to hold steady on our climate commitments, and usher in an affordable, sustainable future for our state.

Now is a time for creativity and commitment, not retrenchment. Be strong.

Sincerely,

Caitlyn Carpenter
69 Brown St, Providence RI 02912