

HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Testimony opposing [Article 11 Section 3](#) and [Article 11 Section 7](#) of House Bill No. 7127 (Governor) ENTITLED, AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027

From: Dr. Caroly Shumway, 16 Jencks Rd., Cumberland, RI 02864

Date of Hearing: Feb. 25, 2026

To: Chair Abney and the Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Dr. Caroly Shumway. I am a resident of Cumberland, RI, and an oceanographer, climate educator, and member of the nonpartisan 800-member strong RI Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby (RICCL). I am writing in **strong opposition** to two sections in the Governor's budget: Article 11, Section 3, and Article 11, Section 7 of House Bill 7127.

Article 11, Section 3, which caps energy efficiency program budgets at \$75 million inexplicably and irrationally cuts the lowest-cost pathway to reduce electricity consumption. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE, Feb. 2026) recently analyzed the nation's largest utility programs and found that energy efficiency (~\$21/ MWh) and load flexibility (<\$40/kW-year) are currently the **lowest-cost ways** to reduce electricity consumption and peak demand.

Article 11, Section 7, which extends compliance with the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) from 2033 to 2050, is similarly short-sighted. The data shows that it is natural gas pricing largely causing energy costs to increase (Wiser et al., 2025). Therefore, the more quickly we adopt renewable energy, the better we can buffer the instability in natural gas. I was so proud of our state when the RES passed. Just as we led the nation in recycling initiatives decades ago, RI was leading again.

I am deeply concerned about climate change for my children's sake. **We are doing our part**, converting as much of our house as we can to electric. We put in solar panels two years ago, and also bought an electric car.. We also bought an induction stove, electric dryer, and will put in mini-splits next year.

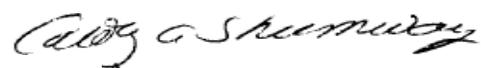
I humbly ask you to consider your own legacy and do the right thing. Make RI a leader again on the environment, as it once was with its recycling initiatives. You will be helping all Rhode Islanders reduce carbon emissions, critical for making the world better for future generations. Our future is literally in your hands.

Seventy-six years ago, my grandfather, Dr. Roger Revelle (and later, Al Gore's mentor) and Hans Suess showed that the oceans were unable to buffer all of the increasing CO2 from fossil fuel combustion, and that the excess CO2 would go into the atmosphere. We have procrastinated for 76 years - far too long to address the climate crisis at the detriment of all of us. **The consequences and economic cost of our procrastination are increasingly clear.**

I respectfully urge the House Finance Committee and full General Assembly to oppose these changes to the budget. Everyone is worried about affordability. Yet it is only **common sense** to spend funds now to save greatly increased costs to all of us in the future.

I'm sure you also care deeply about the future for our children too. **We need immediate action on climate change *because later is simply too late.***

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Shumway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Carol Shumway
Cumberland, RI