

February 25, 2026

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

RE: Opposition to Article 11, Section 3 (Energy Efficiency Cap) and Article 11, Section 8 (Renewable Energy Standard Delay)

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gregg McPherson. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Section 3 and Section 8 of Article 11 in the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

Section 3, which proposes a cap on energy efficiency programs, would undermine one of the most cost-effective tools we have for reducing energy costs and lowering emissions. Energy efficiency investments consistently save Rhode Island families and businesses money while reducing demand on the grid. Capping these programs would shift costs onto ratepayers over time and slow progress toward our climate commitments.

Section 8, which delays the Renewable Energy Standard by 17 years, moves Rhode Island away from the clear path laid out in the Act on Climate. Businesses, municipalities, and residents make long-term decisions based on predictable policy signals. A delay of this magnitude introduces uncertainty and signals retreat at a moment when steady progress is essential.

Rhode Island has positioned itself as a state willing to lead on clean energy and climate responsibility. Rolling back or delaying these measures sends the wrong message to families, investors, and young people who expect us to plan for a stable and affordable energy future.

I respectfully urge the Committee to reject Section 3 and Section 8 of Article 11 and maintain Rhode Island's commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy progress.

Sincerely,

Gregg McPherson