

Dear Chair Abney and members of the Committee, my name is Jessie Kingston, and 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 Act on 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 move RI further away from meeting our climate mandates.

Article 11, Section 3

This proposal would cap the gas and electricity energy efficiency program budgets at \$75M annually. The cap represents a 48% decline from historical budgets averaged over the past five years.

Energy efficiency is one of the best ways to ensure residents are comfortable in their homes and can reduce their energy demand. Capping budgets reduces the benefits that come with investment - like energy savings and job creation.

Article 11, Section 8

This proposal pushes out and amends compliance with the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) by 17 years, only requiring 100% clean electricity by 2050.

The 100% by 2033 RES is a foundational component of RI's ability to meet the Act on Climate, as detailed in the 2025 Climate Action Strategy. Pushing out the RES jeopardizes RI's ability to meet our climate targets and prolongs reliance on costly and volatile fossil fuels.

I am also writing **in support of Article 3 Section 16** of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. A state facilities benchmarking and building performance standards program would lead the way for our large buildings to track and report their energy usage and can help building owners reduce emissions over time.

I am submitting testimony on **Article 6 Question 5** of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Energy efficiency can directly lower utility bills for homeowners, and for all Rhode Islanders. However, allocating energy efficiency funding via a bond is not an assured or consistent source of funding for these critical programs.