

Dear Chair Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Dr. Alison Hayward, and I am an emergency physician living in Barrington, Rhode Island. I am also a part of the Rhode Island Medical Society's Planetary Health Committee, and the Brown University Planetary Health Initiative. I wish to submit comments regarding my opposition, as a physician and as a citizen, against sections 3 and 8, article 11 of Governor McKee's FY2027 budget, which I feel would be extremely harmful to the health of Rhode Island's environment and its people.

The Act on Climate is our landmark legislation targeting emissions reductions, it is absolutely critical that we honor these goals and take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support deployment of clean energy. Instead, the governor's proposed budget will drastically reduce investments into clean energy. Our state has more than 400 miles of coastline and sea levels are continuing to rise, putting our infrastructure at risk - and the frequency of natural disasters driven by climate change has more than doubled in recent years according to the NOAA's reports, costing billions of dollars in damages. A failure to support efforts to combat climate change is short sighted and will cost our state greatly both economically and with respect to our health - putting Rhode Islanders at increased risk from respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, including asthma, as well as infectious diseases which are increasing in prevalence and frequency with the temperature.

Sincerely,

Alison Hayward, MD MPH
Barrington, Rhode Island