

Testimony in opposition to H7127: Appropriations for the Support of the State for the
FY Ending June 30, 2027

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To Chair Abney and the honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I strongly oppose H7127. I also oppose the budget cuts to renewable energy and to energy efficiency programs and the weakening of the Renewable Energy Standard in the name of energy “affordability” (really?). Renewable energy and energy efficiency programs should be strengthened, not be derailed.

Energy costs are much too high for Rhode Island residents because of our reliance on expensive fossil fuels and antiquated fossil fuel delivery systems. The cost of renewables continues to fall every day, while fossil fuels become more and more expensive. It is widely known and economically proven that energy from renewable sources is less expensive and cleaner than energy from fossil fuels. At the end of 2025, **renewable energy was cleaner and the most cost-effective option for new electricity generation**. Businesses and homeowners are shifting to renewables because renewables offer a **more affordable present cost, not just a greener future** (renewableenergy.ca). So why is the Governor’s budget cutting investments in renewable energy that RI residents and business want? It doesn’t make sense at all.

Because of its lower cost compared to fossil fuels, 95% of recent new energy generation in the world has been from solar, wind and batteries; in the U.S., it was 91% in the first half of 2025. RI is leading the country in renewable energy transformation. Why go backwards towards more expensive and dirty fossil fuel energy? This again makes no sense, and is counter to what we as RI residents and business want and need. The energy sections of this budget is bizarre and flat out irresponsible. Pitching natural gas and oil as the most expensive alternatives is shameful. Rolling back clean energy incentives for RI residents and businesses smells of disinformation by the fossil fuel industry and is the type of short-term self-interest thinking we in RI cannot afford. Let’s stay the course with the renewable energy and energy efficiency investments that help RI residents and businesses beyond this year’s budget voodoo.

Governor McKee seems to think that burning fossil fuels would be the most affordable way for Rhode Islanders to use energy. This is flat out false. His proposed budget will increase energy costs (yes, even higher than today) and foolishly lock RI into higher energy cost for

decades. Let's stop this madness. House leadership is essential to keep us on the most promising and affordable energy path possible – namely, renewable energy and incentives for more energy efficiency projects in our homes and businesses.

Thank you very much for considering my input. Please bring this bill to the full House for a vote.

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