

24, February 2026

Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Nygel Gomes, and I am a lifelong Rhode Islander and East Providence resident. I am honored to have the opportunity to volunteer on Governor McKee's Young Leader Advisory Board and share my insights regarding clean energy initiatives in Article 3 of the Affordability for All agenda.

In response to a federal pushback of clean energy programs- notably the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, September 2025 saw the end of a \$7500 tax credit applied to the purchase of qualifying electric vehicles. This has made affordability of clean energy vehicles a significant obstacle for both Rhode Islanders and those across the country while also jeopardizing Governor McKee's Act on Climate goal for net-zero emissions by 2050.

Currently 3 rebate programs exist in Rhode Island offered through the Office of Energy Resources. As it stands, Rhode Islanders are eligible for upwards of a \$3000 rebate for qualifying plug-in hybrid/battery electric vehicles through the Drive EV program, with an additional \$1500 rebate for those meeting specific household income requirements through Drive+. Up to \$3000 is also available for qualifying small businesses, non-profits, and public sector entities.

Although the DriveEV rebate amount was increased from \$1500 to \$3000 for 2026, this rebate lags behind Massachusetts' MOR-EV (225 CMR 26.00) offerings. In Massachusetts, consumers are eligible for up to \$3500 on qualifying vehicles, \$1500 for those within eligible household income requirements, and an additional \$1000 if a qualifying ICE vehicle is traded in at the time of purchase.

For these reasons, I am writing in support of allocating additional funding within the Affordability for All agenda to the Office of Energy Resources to lower the cost of plug-in hybrid and electric cars in Rhode Island. The end of the \$7500 federal tax credit has caused these vehicles to surge in pricing and inhibits the state's ability to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. By increasing rebate amounts or introducing a new rebate for the trade in of ICE vehicles, Rhode Island will become competitive with our local peers and be a national leader in clean energy initiatives.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify regarding this critical initiative,  
-Nygel