

Dear Chair Abney and members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in opposition to Sections 3 and 8 in Article 11 of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Climate Change is an existential threat to our civilization, and that's even more apparent here in the Ocean State where we are already having to relocate communities at great expense to avoid increasing flooding due to sea level rise. To meet our Act on Climate emissions reductions, we must take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support deployment of clean energy. Sections 3 and 8 of Article 11 slash investment in energy efficiency and clean energy and move RI further away from meeting our climate mandates. Especially now that the Federal Government is stepping back from its responsibilities in this area, it's more important than ever that we hold the line and continue fighting to reduce our carbon emissions.

I am also writing in support of Article 3 Section 16 of the proposed budget. A program benchmarking and setting building performance standards for state facilities would lead our state by example and develop data which could help building owners in our state reduce emissions over time.

Finally, I am submitting testimony on Article 6, Question 5 of the budget. Energy efficiency can directly lower utility bills for homeowners and businesses; however, allocating energy efficiency funding via a bond is not an assured or consistent source of funding for these critical programs. We should budget existing state funds to support energy efficiency programs in our state. My business participated in one of these programs a few years ago. It made installing more efficient lighting much more affordable, and it has significantly reduced our electric bills since. These programs work and really help, and are worth funding.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

George Hasapidis

Foster, RI

