

To the Rhode Island House Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Abney and members of the Committee,

My name is Joan Ramos, and I live in Cranston. I am submitting comments on three items on the agenda for the hearing on February 25.

I wish to express my opposition to Sections 3 and 8 in Article 11 of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. These proposals would drastically reduce investment in energy efficiency and clean energy. In order to reduce emissions in accord with our state's climate mandates, we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support deployment of clean energy.

I wish to express my support of Article 3 Section 16 of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. The proposed state facilities benchmarking and building performance standards program would enable large buildings to track and report their energy usage, thus helping building owners to reduce emissions.

I would also like to comment on Article 6 Question 5 of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. While energy efficiency can directly lower utility bills for Rhode Islanders. However, allocating energy efficiency funding through a bond is not an assured or consistent source of funding for these critical programs.

Thank you for your attention.