

Dear Chair Abney and members of the Committee,

*My name is **Dr. Kevin Plunkett**, and my family and I live in **Westerly**. I am submitting testimony on Article 6 Question 5 of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Energy efficiency can directly lower utility bills for homeowners, and for all Rhode Islanders. However, allocating energy efficiency funding via a bond is not an assured or consistent source of funding for these critical programs. As you know or have heard, most of Rhode Island's homes were built from 1940 - 1975. Having a home built around that time myself, I have spent thousands through energy efficiency to better insulate and equip my home for weather like that we have been experiencing for the last three solid months. Having the ability to help my neighbors with energy efficiency assistance is not just a one-time investment, it helps their homes forever as well as brings down the use of fossil fuels, energy grids, and the cost of living in Rhode Island. I ask that you and your committee see Article 6 Question 5 as a means to help all Rhode Islanders bring cost savings to their homes and budgets. For the small investment it can bring strong change. During last year alone, over 25,000 homes were better insulated and protected from weather with over a twenty million dollar savings.*

I ask that you allow this Article to continue on its path to the budget and approval.

Thank you for your help,

Dr. Kevin M. Plunkett

Homeowner, neighbor and energy community member

Westerly, RI.