



Representative Marvin Abney, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island House of Representatives

February 25th, 2026

RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Supports Budget Article 6, Question 5 in H7127 (Fiscal Year 2027 Budget)

Dear Chair Abney and members of the committee,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, **I write in support of Budget Article 6, Question 5 in House Bill 7127 (Fiscal Year 2027 Budget)** which would include \$10 million in the Green Economy and Clean Energy Bond for energy efficiency infrastructure.

Energy Efficiency Is Crucial to Reduce Utility Costs and Emissions

Investing in energy efficiency measures like insulation and rebates for electric equipment like heat pumps and heat pump water heaters are one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce utility costs for individual ratepayers and to reduce overall emissions. More efficient homes also provide public health benefits like improved indoor and outdoor air quality, which can improve conditions like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD). In December of 2025, the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) released their 2025 Climate Action Strategy (EC4) and one of the next steps identified in the "Implementation" section was for the State to "continue its energy efficiency and renewable energy programs" (Rhode Island Climate Action Strategy, 2025, p. 130). Proposing a question in the Green Bond that addresses the need to increase funding for energy efficiency programs will help align the budget cap with the next step identified in the CAS.

Question 5 in the Green Economy and Clean Energy Bond would provide additional funding of \$10M to support the energy efficiency program outlined in Article 11 Section 3 of H7127. While the cap of \$75M for gas and electric energy efficiency projects proposed in Article 11 Section 3 of H7127 is a significant reduction of historical energy efficiency funding, this bond, if passed, will add a small portion of funding back into the program, and follow the recommendation in the CAS. While the additional funding for energy efficiency is crucial to ensure prudent investment in energy efficiency measures, we would like to highlight that allocating funding via a bond is not a consistent nor guaranteed source of funding, as compared to program budgets. While the additional funding being proposed in the bond is better than a complete lack of additional funding, a more appropriate venue for long term investment is through the energy efficiency programs currently operated by Rhode Island Energy.

Continued investment in energy efficiency is an essential policy level that can reduce utility costs and greenhouse gas emissions and aligned with the 2025 Climate Action Strategy. Green Energy Consumers Alliance urges the committee to support Article 6, Question 5 of House Bill 7127.

Sincerely,

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