

**TO:** Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Michael Kadish, Ocean State Climate Alliance  
**RE:** Support for H7506  
**DATE:** 4/7/26

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Dear Chairman Abney and honorable members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Kadish, and I live in Barrington. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Ocean State Climate Alliance (OSCA).

OSCA is a new Rhode Island-based non-profit working to advance practical, results-oriented climate and energy policy. We focus on advancing practical and economically grounded climate and clean energy solutions.

We strongly support House Bill 7506. This bill makes a targeted and common-sense update to Rhode Island's tax code by extending the existing sales tax exemption for renewable energy systems to include behind the meter battery storage when interconnected with solar photovoltaic systems. Rhode Island already recognizes the value of solar by exempting key system components from sales tax, and this legislation ensures that energy storage, which is now an integral part of modern energy systems, is treated consistently.

Battery storage remains one of the most significant cost drivers in residential clean energy systems, and applying sales tax to storage while exempting solar creates a structural disincentive that limits adoption. By removing this tax, the state can lower upfront costs, improve payback periods, and make it more feasible for more Rhode Islanders to adopt systems that maximize both savings and performance. Solar alone provides meaningful benefits, but solar paired with storage delivers greater value by allowing homeowners to use more of the energy they generate, reduce exposure to peak electricity prices, and better manage their energy use as rate structures evolve.

Storage also provides critical resilience benefits by enabling backup power during outages, which is increasingly important as Rhode Island faces more frequent and severe weather events. In addition to household benefits, distributed storage can support grid reliability by reducing peak demand and providing flexible local energy resources.

This legislation also supports Rhode Island's growing clean energy workforce by making solar plus storage systems more accessible and attractive, which can increase demand, stabilize project pipelines, and support local businesses and jobs.

At OSCA we focus on policies that are practical, targeted, and grounded in real world implementation, and House Bill 7506 meets that standard. It is simple to administer, builds on existing policy, reduces costs without reducing safety or oversight, and aligns incentives with how modern energy systems actually function. It also helps ensure that

Rhode Island's climate goals translate into tangible benefits for residents and businesses. We respectfully urge the Committee to support House Bill 7506.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Kadish  
Executive Director  
Ocean State Climate Alliance  
Barrington, Rhode Island