



**RHODE ISLAND  
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND  
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS** AFT  
AFL - CIO

**To:** House Finance Committee  
**From:** Maribeth Calabro, President  
**Date:** April 14, 2026  
**Re:** Making an Appropriation of Twenty Million Dollars to Support Green Economy and Clean Energy Bond Initiatives  
**Testimony in Support of H 8299 (Cortvriend, et al.)**

*Maribeth K. Calabro*

Chair, members of the committee, and esteemed colleagues,

My name is Maribeth Calabro, President of RIFTHP. I urge your support for H 8299 because it delivers where Rhode Islanders need it most right now: lower costs, good jobs, and real results.

At a time when Rhode Islanders are concerned about affordability, this bill helps bring energy costs down and keep them stable over the long term.

It's also a job and economic development bill.

H 8299 supports local workers, creates high-quality, family-sustaining jobs, and ensures strong labor standards. By bundling projects across communities, we can deliver them faster, more cost-effectively, and at a scale that attracts private investment, maximizing every public dollar.

Just as important, this keeps energy dollars here in Rhode Island. Instead of sending money out of state for fuel, we are investing in local infrastructure, local workers, and local businesses.

This is also about accountability and execution. Rhode Island already has a climate roadmap. What we've been missing is implementation. This bond closes that gap and ensures we are delivering tangible progress—not just plans.

And the timing matters. Delaying action will only mean higher costs, greater system strain, and missed economic opportunity. Acting now puts Rhode Island in a stronger, more competitive position regionally.

This is a disciplined \$20 million investment with clear returns:

\$10 million to strengthen grid reliability through geothermal and battery storage.

\$7 million to directly lower household energy bills through efficiency, weatherization, and distributed solar power.

\$2 million for transit and mobility improvements that reduce costs for working families; and \$1 million to cut energy expenses in our public schools.

This policy will have immediate impact by lowering bills, and with support growth in a stronger infrastructure, as well as creating and maintain jobs in our communities.

I respectfully urge you to support H 8299.

Thank you.

---

356 SMITH STREET PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-3761 (401) 273-9800 FAX (401) 331-8815

---

• **Maribeth K. Calabro**, President • **Maria Manzi**, Executive Assistant • **Bridget McDonough**, Administrative Assistant •  
• **Michael J. Mullane**, Field Representative • **James A. Parisi**, Field Representative •  
• **Christopher Lambert**, Field Representative • **Jeremy Sencer**, Field Representative •  
• **Sean Doyle**, Field Representative •