



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission
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April 29, 2026

Subject: House Bill H8165

To: House Finance Committee

This letter represents written testimony from the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission (RIAEC) with regards to H8165. The legislation proposes conducting a feasibility study to evaluate whether the RIAEC should become part of the University of Rhode Island (URI) as the research and test reactor resides on the URI Bay Campus.

This consolidation was previously evaluated in 2017 at the direction of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in order to determine if there would be cost savings for the state. After a robust review and evaluation, it was shown that not only is URI not a principal user of the facility, but the consolidation would not result in any overall cost savings to the state. Furthermore, there is a significant amount of administrative burden and costs associated with a consolidation, primarily aligning the federal license to the University.

There has been no significant developments since the 2017 evaluation; URI is not a significant user of the facility and the administrative burdens associated with a consolidation and license transfer remain. This legislative proposal would not provide a cost savings to the state, rather it would actually cost more funds to conduct another feasibility study.

Thank you for your time.

Very Respectfully,

Cameron S. Goodwin, PhD, Director
Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission