

May 6, 2026

*Via Electronic Mail*

Representative Marvin L. Abney  
Chair, House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Testimony in Support of Governor's Budget Amendment #7

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Michelle Carpenter, and I am the Founder of CM Renewables, LLC. I am a Rhode Island resident and have worked in the clean energy industry, both within Rhode Island and nationally, for nearly 20 years. My expertise is in distributed generation development, energy policy, and clean energy infrastructure.

I appreciate the Administration's decision to convene stakeholders through the Executive Order 26-01 process. While I did not directly participate in the formal stakeholder sessions, the industry coordinated an informal working group that has been meeting weekly throughout this process. Based on those discussions, there is broad industry support for the tariff proposal, structured as an option for operational and late-stage development projects, with some companies recommending minor amendments and clarifications to other items.

Rhode Island's affordability challenges are real and deserve thoughtful attention. As the State evaluates long-term energy affordability, it is also important to recognize that clean energy resources are increasingly necessary infrastructure investments. Expanding local solar and storage can help diversify supply, reduce exposure to fuel volatility, improve resiliency, and support a more stable long-term energy system.

Maintaining regulatory certainty for existing projects and investments is also critical to preserving Rhode Island's ability to attract private capital needed to continue deploying clean energy infrastructure that benefits ratepayers and the broader economy. The revised amendment appropriately avoids adverse impacts on existing operating projects and projects already substantially advanced in development, while helping protect

municipalities, schools, affordable housing providers, nonprofits, businesses, and residents who rely on these projects for long-term energy savings and budget stability.

I appreciate the Administration's collaborative approach and look forward to continued dialogue during Phase II to help develop practical, forward-looking solutions that address affordability while supporting Rhode Island's long-term energy and economic goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Michelle Carpenter*

Michelle Carpenter

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