

May 18, 2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey  
Chairman, House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

**RE: H-5687 – Relating to State Affairs & Government – Energy Facility Siting Act – Capital City Underground Utility Initiative**

Dear Chairman Casey:

On behalf of Rhode Island Energy, I write regarding H-5687, which would facilitate the partial undergrounding of the E-183 electric transmission line at the request of the cities of Providence and East Providence.

Rhode Island Energy provides essential energy services to more than 770,000 customers across the Ocean State through the delivery of electricity and natural gas. Our team of 1,400 union and non-union employees is dedicated to helping Rhode Island customers and communities thrive, while supporting the transition to a cleaner energy future – in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner.

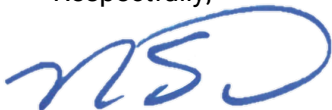
Today, the E-183 transmission line is situated above ground, running through India Point Park before crossing over the Seekonk River to East Providence near the confluence of the Providence and Seekonk Rivers. At the request of the Cities, Rhode Island Energy developed a hybrid approach that would result in “the burial of portions of the E-183 electric transmission line along the southern shore of Fox and India Points that are south of Interstate 195 and in East Providence on the east side of the Seekonk River.” The actual river crossing would remain overhead but aligned with the I-195 bridge. This design, referenced in the bill as “Bridge Alignment South – Hybrid,” is described on page 2, lines 15-20.

Importantly, this legislation provides for the recovery of incremental project costs not otherwise offset by other funding sources from electric distribution customers in those two municipalities, subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities Commission (page 3, lines 18-25). Rhode Island Energy concurs with this approach, which insulates all other electric distribution customers across our service territory from any new costs resulting from this project.

Should this legislation advance, Rhode Island Energy stands ready to assist the cities of Providence and East Providence advance their preferred underground alignment of the E-183 transmission line.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation.

Respectfully,



Nicholas S. Ucci  
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
The Honorable Matthew S. Dawson, Rhode Island House of Representatives