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Representative Stephen M. Casey
Chair, House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903
rep-casey@rilegislature.gov

Re: Support for H 8294; An Act Relating to Property -- Abandoned Property

Dear Chairman Casey:

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent over 1000 men and women who provide their skills through our vast network of signatory contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I also serve as one, if not the only, voice of the men and women who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by an electrical labor union in the state of Rhode Island.

I am writing to you today in **support of H 8294**

The debate over renewable energy for some reason never seems to end. In my years of testifying and advocating for renewables I would say there is rarely any legitimate opposition to the subject matter. However, one thought that has *some* merit is solar energy in particular could benefit from energy storage. That stored energy could be used to supply electricity in the hours when the modules do not produce. It is not a necessity to have energy storage to make solar and other renewables a wise choice, but it certainly can make a great energy source even better.

As most are aware, I have worked with the labor, environmental and development community to make wise choices with renewable installations. We worked for several years to pass, in consensus, solar siting legislation to protect our forests and drive development to more acceptable locations such as brown fields and properties such as those detailed in this bill. These locations that are undesirable for most anything else and lay useless for the most part. Allowing energy storage systems by right on abandoned property just makes good sense and helps us get one step closer to our shared goals of a cleaner world for those who follow us.

In conclusion, I again state our **support for H8294** for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr / Business Manager

Cc:
Dawn Huntley/ Committee Clerk
Committee Members
Paul Macdonald / IBEW Local 99 Lobbyist
Build RI
RI AFL-CIO