



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

Brian M. Daniels, Director

One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5890

Office: (401) 574-8430
Fax: (401) 222-6436

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chairperson
House Committee on State Government and Elections
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill 7998 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – 2021 Act on Climate

Dear Chairperson Shanley:

Thank you for providing the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the opportunity to submit this letter of opposition in response to House Bill No. 7998. This bill would require the Governor, in presenting proposed budget articles, to set forth climate considerations that were undertaken to move the State toward the 2021 Act on Climate goals.

OMB appreciates the General Assembly's commitment to addressing climate change and promoting environmental accountability. While OMB shares the goal of ensuring that fiscal decisions support Rhode Island's long-term resilience, it is concerned that requiring climate commentary within each budget article does not meaningfully contribute to the understanding of the budget proposal's implications for the 2021 Act on Climate goals.

Many budget articles, such as those related to Medicaid, K-12 education, or debt service, do not have direct climate implications. Requiring the inclusion of climate considerations in all budget articles can create confusion about which items truly have environmental significance.

Additionally, when climate considerations are relevant in the context of key decisions in the Governor's proposed budget, existing budget documents, such as the Governor's transmittal letter, budget article memos, issue briefs, and revenue-impact statements, are designed to address the rationale for the decision and outline the anticipated impacts.

The annual budget submission serves as a cornerstone for the Governor's policy agenda in the legislative session — a comprehensive expression of executive priorities that must balance competing demands across agencies and programs. Basing budget and capital allocations primarily on the recommendations of the Act on Climate strategy report, itself an evolving document, would seriously constrain the administration's ability to allocate limited resources among numerous important needs.

For these reasons, OMB respectfully maintains that the existing framework of the recommended budget proposal, including supporting documents, provides the level of detail that the bill seeks to offer.

Page 2
April 7, 2026

We appreciate the opportunity to share our comments on this legislation with the Committee. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian M. Daniels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" being the most prominent.

Brian M. Daniels
Director, Office of Management and Budget

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
The Honorable Teresa A. Tanzi
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Steven Sepe, Committee Clerk