



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley  
Chair, House Committee on State Government & Elections  
Room 135, State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: *2026 – H 7998, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – 2021 Act on Climate*

Dear Chair Shanley,

The Administration writes in opposition to H 7998, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – 2021 Act on Climate (Act). The Act requires the Governor, in presenting his proposed budget articles, to “set forth the climate considerations that were undertaken to move the state towards the mandated goals set forth” in the 2021 Act on Climate.

The Administration remains committed to the state’s energy and climate goals, but cannot support this Act, which intrudes on the Governor’s constitutional authority. Article 9, section 15 of the Rhode Island Constitution vests the Governor with the exclusive power to “prepare and present to the general assembly an annual, consolidated operating and capital improvement state budget.” To mandate through statute what the Governor is required to include in his budget proposal would also violate the separation of powers under article 5 of the Constitution and likely violates his right to free expression under our state and federal constitutions. Thus, no statute can intrude upon the Governor’s constitutional authority to prepare and present a budget of his choosing, and no statute can compel his speech.

To be sure, existing law relating to the contents of the Governor’s budget proposal provides, unlike this Act, that the Governor “may” set forth certain information, at his discretion. *See R.I. Gen. Laws § 35-3-7(a).*

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine E. Miller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Katherine E. Miller  
Deputy Executive Counsel

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections  
Nicole McCarty, Esq.