

February 4, 2026

TO: Senate Commission to Study the Successful Implementation of the Act on Climate
FROM: Mike Stenhouse, CEO, RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity
SUBJECT: Testimony Notes

2/4/2026 presentation by Mike Stenhouse to the Senate
Commission to Study the Successful Implementation of the Act on
Climate



NOTE: only 3 of 5 Commission Members were on hand. The full text below is not a transcript of my oral testimony, as I was not allowed enough time to make my comments in their entirety.

RI and New England are already suffering from an Energy Affordability Crisis – and the Act On Climate will only make it worse.

Good day, my name is Mike Stenhouse ... more on me later, but I want to start with my belief that RI's energy policies are vitally important when it comes to our state's future.

Regardless of what any of us may believe about climate change or global warming, and unlike any other set of policies ... more than taxes, more than housing, more than all other government services ... our state's energy strategy will literally determine the future direction of our state – prosperity or poverty?

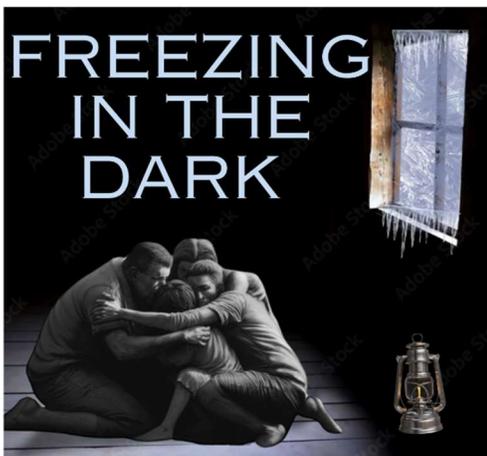
Here's the irony: If RIs Act on Climate succeeds in meeting its targets ... our state fails!

This commission is charged to evaluate the Successful Implementation of the Act On Climate ... but there can be no such thing. Why?

Because to achieve the “fundamental” goals behind RI's “net zero” and Act On Climate targets ... means both “energy inflation” and “energy poverty” for our state. It's like a dog chasing its tail ... these goals cannot be affordably achieved, given the current state of technology ... and the more we pursue them, the more we will just spin our state into the ground.

If we continue to prioritize low or zero net carbon emissions sources of energy – our state will fail. “net zero” is the wrong goal.

If families in our state, businesses in our state, residents in our state ... continue to suffer from unaffordable energy prices and reduced freedom of choice ... our state will fail. Because of the project staggering costs of energy, people will flee to other states as local inflation rises, rental rates and housing costs will soar; businesses will close or move; and state revenues will plummet ... all of which are actually happening to some degree right now.



If our state cannot count on our own government to secure for its residents a secure energy future ... our state will fail.

Because there is “fundamental” problem with the underlying goals behind the Act On Climate ... I am calling on this Commission to recommend a “fundamental pivot” away from existing Act on Climate mandates ... or else many Ocean Staters could be facing **Freezing in the Dark** scenarios.

The appropriate goal for our state government is to ensure that reliable, abundant, clean, and affordable energy will be available to power our future prosperity.

Governor McKee, the December EC4 report, and DEM Director Gray have all recently echoed the same warnings.

Imagine the recent and brutal cold snap. Imagine, after we are all mandated to heat and power our homes and cars with electricity ... imagine that on the coldest of winter nights, when we go to flip that switch to turn on the lights, to turn up the heat, and to charge our car batteries ... imagine that nothing happens. **Imagine freezing in the dark ...** and we won't even be able to drive and escape somewhere where the power is on.

No matter the good intentions of "net zero" advocates ... In their quest to build a **sustainable** path forward, state policymakers have instead put RI on an **unstainable** and dangerous future energy path.

Now, you might snicker that what I'm about to say is nothing more than gratuitous fear-mongering. But that's the same thing that California and Pasadena officials thought when they were repeatedly warned about their mis-guided policies about management of their region's forests, water, and fire-fighting capacity ... they were warned that a disaster was looming if they didn't make that "fundamental pivot". They snickered, they ignored the warning, they kept to their political agenda ... and they paid a horrifically tragic price for putting a politics ahead of people ... **in their, case, burning in the dark!**



Today, I issue a similar warning. But it is not just me raising red flags ... even pro Act On Climate gov't officials in RI are sending out warning signals ... and many other states are making that same "fundamental pivot" away from their original aggressive and now obsolete decarbonization policies.

This commission is our only hope – legislative leaders do not have an open mind. Your commission literally could save our state from its current path towards energy poverty.

Before I go on I want to thank Chairman Zurier for inviting me to present to this commission ... and for appearing on my *In The Dugout* podcast, where you promised that you and commission members would keep an "open mind" when it comes to hearing the narrative I present, one that dramatically differs from what most lawmakers have been indoctrinated to believe.

A little background about myself – I have a degree in economics from Harvard University, and I have been the CEO of the nonprofit RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity for 15 years and heavily engaged in multiple public policy issues. While I am not an energy expert by profession, I did stay at a Holiday Inn last night. Energy policy has been our number one issue over those 15 years, our Center has hired professional energy experts who have issued multiple reports on this issue, and I have had many other national energy experts as guests on my podcast.

Today, I hope commission members will keep an **open mind** ... I'm sure you noticed the emails in your inboxes over the past week ... now over 800 ... Speaker Shekarchi tried to download them as nothing but meaningless "form" emails ... but that is not true. While much of the email content is standard, the third paragraph of each email contains the personal comments of each petitioner. I encourage you to re-read some of those emails and the passionate personal commentary about this vital issue.

As you conduct these hearings today and in the coming months, I ask you inquire of all those who come before your commission ... **why?**

Why does anyone think that meeting arbitrary emissions targets in tiny Rhode Island would do anything to reduce worldwide global warming? That's what this is all about, right? Carbon emissions causing warming, right? However, it is becoming increasingly understood that carbon emission levels are not the root cause of global temperature changes. In fact, many environmental experts believe that slightly elevated carbon emissions are beneficial ... more green trees and more crops ... and it's a fact that more people die worldwide from cold weather vs hot weather.

Do we really want to risk our state's future pursuing a politically-driven quest to meet goals that are likely impossible to reach ... and **certainly unaffordable** to build out? We all know that future demand for electricity is dramatically rising ... even without forced electrification.

What "real" benefit can possibly offset staggering costs and risks associated with RI's Act On Climate mandates and net zero goals? ... costs that I will discuss with you shortly.

First, with regard to technological capacity. I challenge you to inquire if anyone comes before this commission to point to any credible study that validates that any alternative "green" energy strategy can reliably and technologically deliver the power capacity we will need in the coming decades.

In fact, per our May 2025 report ... RI Energy, the RI PUC, and ISO-NE all admit Cost & Capacity Dangers. More on that shortly ... but I and these regional entities are not the only ones sounding the alarm ... even government officials are raising red flags.

Let's take a look at the cost side ...

It was legislative negligence that no legitimate Cost-v-Benefit analysis was conducted in 2021 when the Act On Climate was passed, at that time, under the Biden administration, when federal program after federal program were counted upon to provide subsidies and regulatory support.

If a proper C-v-B had been done in 2021, it would have shown even then, why RI's net zero, R P S, and Act on Climate goals were never feasible in the first place. ... two recent reports by our Center lay out the research ... and clearly show that from a cost viewpoint ... a "fundamental pivot" in strategy should have been taken back then.



Our first report in late 2024, in association with our partner northeast and national think tanks, estimated the total costs of implementing our region's current decarbonization goals ... both regionally and for our state.

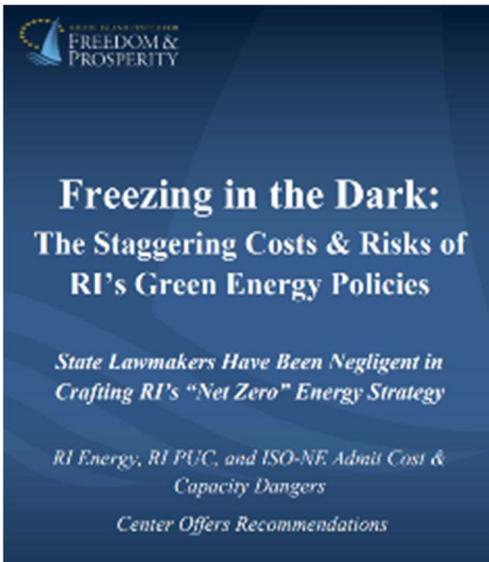
Here are the key takeaways:

- It will cost **\$815 billion** across all of New England to build out the infrastructure needed to produce enough energy to meet

anticipated future demand

- **\$58 billion for RI alone ...** In fact RI DEM largely agrees and estimates those infrastructure costs as even at higher levels
- And, under current laws, electricity prices (not counting inflation) are expected to double during this same time period. Rlers already pay and are already furious about the high cost of energy again, check the comments from the hundreds of petitioners ... imagine the outrage when their electric bills DOUBLE!

Under a net zero by 2050 scenario, the Climate Action Strategy showed potential for...



Our second report: **Freezing in the Dark**, next highlighted the capacity concerns of utilities and regional grid operators who warn that full electrification without proper planning could lead to dangerous winter blackouts.

Just this week, a new long-term reliability assessment from [North American Electric Reliability Corporation](#) (NERC) finds electricity demand is rising far faster than new capacity is being added and that **multiple regions at risk of electricity shortfalls by 2030 ... New England is rated as at "elevated risk"**

During this recent cold snap, the **Canadian province of Quebec**, which relies significantly on alternative renewable energy sources, was in such a dire need for energy, they not only had to cease export of their hydro-

power ... they had to actually import energy from the US – natural gas sourced power from New York and petroleum sourced power from New England.

Like we saw in Texas a few years ago, over-reliance on green energy sources is not reliable and can lead to deadly consequences. In Quebec, traditional fossil fuels came to the rescue. **Why would RI seek to abandon them?**

Our 2025 report also put forth some common-sense recommendations, which I'll discuss shortly.

Even Rhode Island's primary utility company, Rhode Island Energy, in response to specific inquiries made by the RI Center for Freedom and Prosperity, acknowledges there is no actual plan to upgrade grid infrastructure to meet future state electricity demands, citing the issue of "affordability".



costs to be imposed upon the ratepayers." Administrator George also expressed concerns about the tight timeline that the bill called for.^v

Even Rhode Island's primary utility company, *Rhode Island Energy*, in response to specific inquiries made by the *RI Center for Freedom and Prosperity*, acknowledges there is **no actual plan to upgrade grid infrastructure to meet future state electricity demands**, citing the issue of "affordability".^{vi} In February 2025, the utility indicated that it was just starting to examine this matter, stating to the Center, "Discussions are currently taking place to determine when and how RIE can incorporate potentially more aggressive adoption trends to better align with the state's climate goals."

However, multiple recent reports demonstrate that these climate goals are not reasonably achievable. It appears that state lawmakers do not realize that the technological capability does not currently exist to produce and store sufficient electrical capacity at an affordable level; this according to New England's regional transmission organization, ISO New England (ISO-NE).

According to ISO-NE, the organization responsible for managing the electrical grid and wholesale electricity markets in the six states of New England, "... complete electrification of the heating and transportation sectors and a near-exclusive reliance on wind, solar, and storage to generate electric power is possible, but involves **significant cost and unresolved reliability** concerns."^{vii}

It appears Ocean State lawmakers were willfully ignorant of the facts ... flying blind and setting unrealistic expectations ... with no plan to get there. To best serve the well-being of their constituents, elected and appointed officials must come to grips with actual research findings as well as the new reality of the dramatically altered federal landscape implemented by the 47th President of the United States ... **and re-craft a realistic state energy strategy.**

Report Card on U.S. energy production.

We ranked eight key energy industry sectors based on their ability to meet the growing demand for affordable, reliable, and clean electric generation.

Report Card						
Energy Source	Capacity Reliability	Environmental/ Human Impact	Cost	Technology/ Innovation	Market Feasibility	Final Grade
Natural gas	9	9	10	10	9	A
Coal	8	7	9	9	7	B-
Petroleum	6	7	8	8	6	C-
Nuclear	10	10	7	10	7	B+
Hydroelectric	10	8	8	8	6	B-
Wind	5	6	5	6	6	F
Solar	5	5	5	8	6	F
Geothermal	6	9	5	8	5	D+

Figure 1: Mackinac Center's "Grading The Grid"

This report also included part of a 2024 study from a major Michigan based think tank – the Mackinac Center - that rated Solar and Wind power with an “F” due to their lack of ability to meet the growing demand for affordable, reliable, and clean electric generation, and also citing the environmental harms many “green” sources of power cause themselves ... to our land and oceans, and to wildlife and sea life.

But the story gets even worse. Since 2021, the federal landscape has dramatically changed in such a significant way that our **Act On Climate laws have now become even more unaffordable**. Without the federal funding that the Act On Climate was counting on ... Ocean State taxpayers and ratepayers would be forced to pay a far greater cost burden if we keep to our current goals and timelines. As Director Gray told you last week, no state has the budget to fill these gaps.

Because of these massive unaffordable costs and capacity uncertainty, RI needs to make a “fundamental pivot” ... we need a more realistic and appropriate set of goals ... and it can only start with this commission.

I’ve used the term “fundamental pivot” many times. But this is not my term, it is the **EC4s term** from their

December 2025 Climate Action Strategy report.

As EC4 reported (see *two excerpts*): changes in the federal landscape have “compromised our ability to deliver Act On Climate commitments” without some adjustment.”

However, this trajectory now faces material uncertainty due to recent shifts in federal policy, which affect both the availability of federal funding and the underlying programs that were assumed in earlier planning. These shifts will have devastating and immediate consequences for Rhode Island’s climate planning. While this Strategy focuses on impacts to our climate-change portfolio, the broader federal rollbacks are poised to trigger severe disruptions across energy, environmental protection, health care, and food-security systems, placing extraordinary strain on state agencies and undermining long-standing strategic investments.

With respect specifically to climate initiatives, the Trump Administration’s actions will materially disrupt Rhode Island’s ability to meet its statutory emissions-reduction obligations. Numerous examples illustrate the magnitude of this harm:

Taken together, these actions will require us to consider a fundamental pivot in our planning and execution, as the federal landscape has shifted in ways that likely compromise our ability to deliver on climate commitments without some adjustment.

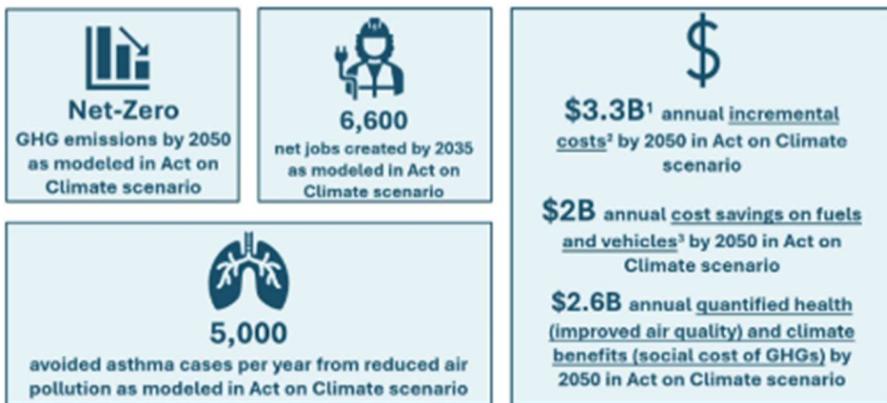
In light of these structural changes, the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council acknowledges that future policy must strike a more deliberate balance: protecting utility affordability for Rhode Island families while charting a realistic, regionally aligned set of climate goals that reflect the new federal environment.

Last week, DEM Director Gray echoed the same reality. Gray also conceded that the “pace” of implementing our state’s climate strategy should probably be re-considered.

How will this Commission respond? Will you adjust the pace, as my organization has long advocated?

These are the factual **staggering costs and risks** ... so again I ask, WHY? Why would we impose these costs and risks on the people of Rhode Island. Are there offsetting benefits?

Under a net zero by 2050 scenario, the Climate Action Strategy showed potential for...



Notes: 1 Compared to business as usual scenario for "the nothing" scenario - represents potential growth added
2 Represents direct costs, such as supply-side spending on electricity and fuels, and demand-side costs for building equipment, energy efficiency, EVs, and charging infrastructure
3 Represents reduced spending on conventional fuels like natural gas and gasoline, and avoided spending on external combustion engine vehicles

Last week DEM made a weak attempt to claim benefits of the Act On Climate, putting a \$2.6B figure on the value of air quality (which BTW is not a problem in RI, as our state's air quality is rated as "good") and on "social" impacts of GHG ... **These are not legitimate economic factors** ... these are contrived terms to support a political outcome ... and they are based on highly subjective modeling.

What about the \$2B annual "fuel cost" savings DEM projects? I believe this is

an unrealistic claim as it is based on three false premises: first that under the Act On Climate, that electricity rates will stay at their current levels ... **they will not**, as we reported they will double, so any savings on gasoline fuel will be offset by the staggeringly high costs of "electricity fuel"; second, that solar or wind will produce energy that is less costly than traditional and reliable fossil fuels, this is a myth ... more on that in a moment; and third that wind and solar farms will produce the levels of power output originally promised ... again, they will not; we know this because they have not.

The Block Island Wind farm dispels two of these myths: many Act On Climate supporters, including Chairman Zurier on my podcast earlier this month, claim that Block Island Wind is as example of how offshore wind can produce positive results and lower energy bills. The problem is ... Block Island Wind ... if anything proves my point.

Like other regional wind farms, actual power output has proven to be significantly less than promised – this means more farms will need to be built, at even greater cost. Did you know that Block Island residents do not get their electricity from the wind farm? They get it from the same mainland grid as you and I ... via undersea cables. The power generated from the wind farm goes into our mainland grid.

Further, residents on BI pay significantly more than mainland customers because of the added "transmission" and "distribution" fees associated the massive infrastructure costs to construct and operate the turbines and the undersea cables – as well as costs for maintenance and clean up when one of the massive blades might fall into the ocean. It's true that Block Island residents pay less now than they used to ... because before the wind farm they uniquely relied on very expensive locally generated diesel fuel power. But because of the high "build out" costs of wind farms, they pay more than we do on the mainland. All of us will similarly pay more if we keep to Act on Climate targets.

In summary, the \$4.6 billion in "savings" that DEM argues as a benefit ... are not real economic offsets! Yet the hard infrastructure costs and soaring electricity rates are real, hard cash – and unaffordable for most RI families and businesses. Just ask Rlers and ask those who sent their petitions to you. So again, why are we doing this?

Finally, DEM talks about 6000 new green jobs by 2035 ... not explaining if these are temporary construction jobs or ongoing permanent jobs, or even if they are American jobs? But one thing we know for sure is that, either way, offsetting those potential job gains ... are permanent job losses in the fishing, NG, and oil industries.

Alone, over 2100 NG jobs are at risk if we continue with our state's misguided plans to eliminate natural gas energy production. The DEM failed to mention these other industry losses. Shouldn't somebody care about these real and existing Ocean State workers and their families?

We have all been misled by DEM and by extreme environmental activists. The purported benefits of RI's net zero strategy are unrealistic and cannot possibly justify the actual staggering costs and risks.

For the future prosperity of our state, we must deal in reality, not myth.



Here are some other inconvenient facts that I don't have time to discuss in detail, but all can be documented:

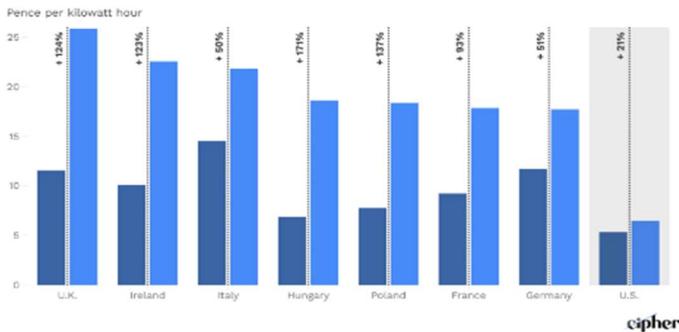
- Many other northeast states – and many European countries – realizing these cost & capacity problems, are now backtracking on their overly zealous decarbonization plans
- European Parliament agreed to roll back a slew of green mandates and regulations on businesses. Politico calls it an "emerging rupture that is reshaping European policymaking."
- EV sales have been diving for years, even when federal subsidies were still around. Now that those subsidies are gone, DEM Director Gray clearly told this Commission that no state has the budget "to fill these gaps"
- Last year, I interviewed the former head of RI Auto dealers ... they cannot sell their EVs off their lots, as demand is far lower than projections. And auto manufacturers, nationally, are cutting back EV production due to lack of demand
- Connecticut repealed its EV mandate in 2024
- NY removed political blockage of Natural Gas pipeline expansion and is in the process of delaying its own decarbonization milestones
- Massachusetts Governor Healey publicly backtracked on her original hope of phasing out fossil fuel heating sources
- Even RI Governor McKee recognizes this cost problem and has proposed changes to ease the expected soaring cost of electricity for our state's residents
- Both European and US studies show that windfarm energy output has been significantly overstated, and fall woefully short during many peak demand periods
- There is no battery-storage technology that can adequately, affordably, or safely provide enough ongoing power when the wind doesn't blow, and the sun doesn't shine during peak demand spikes during excessively cold or hot weather periods.

The Act On Climate could also spell further ruin for our state's economy, which is already struggling, lagging far behind other states and the national economy. Nationally we enjoy near-record GDP growth and rises in personal income, while reducing inflation ... In RI, we pretty much suffer the opposite.

According to RIPEC just this week: in-state jobs have decreased, sales tax receipts have decreased, and labor force participation remains flat. URI Economics professor Len LARDARO for months has stated that RI has been in a recession.

Industrial power prices have risen a lot more in Europe compared to U.S.

Chart shows electricity prices in 2019 (dark blue) and 2023 (lighter blue).



Source: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero of the United Kingdom, Marko Jukić, senior analyst at Bismarck Analysis • The price comparison is based on data from Eurostat and the International Energy Agency.

RI's overall business climate is consistently ranked in the bottom five. Why would we knowingly make it worse by raising energy prices and increasing local inflation, and increasing the risk of energy shortages?

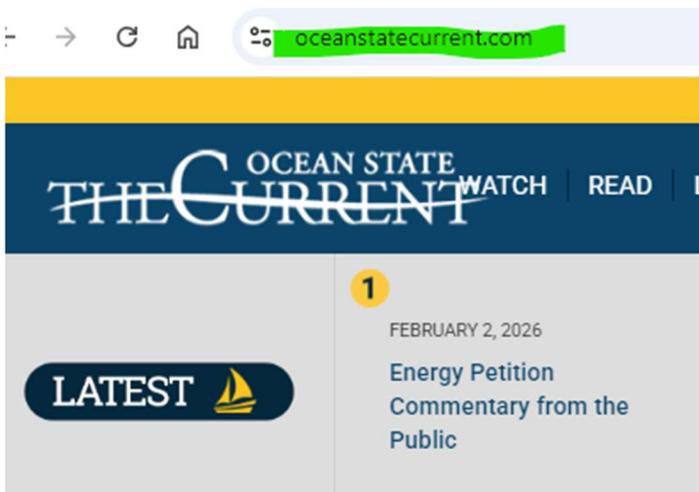
European industries pay significantly higher energy prices than here in America, depressing Europe's national economies. **Why would we follow that same destructive path and put further our state's industries and overall business climate?**

There is so much at stake here. The successful implementation of the Act On Climate goals, if not significantly altered, will lead to economic failure for Rhode Island.

Next, a few minutes about the potential POLITICAL costs.

And this is perhaps the most compelling reason why this Commission must recommend changes to the Act on Climate: **As the EC4 reported and as RI DEM told this very commission ... consumer confidence and buy-in to the Act On Climate goals are "essential" to its successful implementation.**

But recent polling and our Center's petition drive, show the exact opposite – the public does not accept the higher prices they will be forced to pay ... and they do not support the restricted choices that will be imposed on them. As more and more Ocean Staters learn of the costs and risks of the Act On Climate – fewer and fewer people will support it.



As I mentioned earlier, regarding the 800+ emails each of you has received from Ocean Staters who have signed our petition, if you have not already done so, to understand how the public feels about all this, please go to our **OceanStateCurrent.com** website to read the hundreds upon hundreds of passionate personal commentary - pleading with policymakers to change course and provide for an **affordable** energy future for our state.

On my *In The Dugout* podcast just this week, my guest from the international org - **Independent Women** – Gabriella Hoffman – reviewed with me their recent poll of

women across New England ...

Rhode Island

- 92% of Rhode Island women are concerned about rising energy costs.
- 88% of Rhode Island women say they are paying more for energy than they were five years ago.
- 56% of Rhode Island women believe Rhode Island politicians have misled voters about the effectiveness and costs of the green-energy transition.

What's especially compelling is how many women believe they have been mis-led by RI politicians about green energy ... just like I've been saying.

These numbers are even worse if you include men, who are less swayed by claims of existential environmental problems, and even more concerned about practical and economic factors.

≡ The polling also shows that over half of these women do not understand that it is state public policy – by state lawmakers from this building – that is to blame for the already high energy prices their families are forced to pay. They largely believe that to blame are big oil, RI Energy, or federal policies.

By significant margins, they also do not want to be told that they cannot buy the appliances or automobiles that they would normally choose.

Ironically, because they have not yet connected the dots, RI women (and many Rlers) still support the concept of green energy policies ... not realizing that it is those very same state policies that are causing the high prices and mandates that restrict their energy freedom of choice ... that they overwhelmingly do not support.

Supporting these oppressive and costly energy mandates is **to play with political fire**, especially as more and more people come to understand that high energy costs and lack of energy freedom are the result of policies by elected state officials.

Finally, I do not come here only with criticism of the Act On Climate. **I also come with common-sense near-term recommendations and long term solutions for this Commission to consider.**

Senator Vargas – in DEM Director Gray’s response to one of your questions last week, he acknowledged that the dramatic shift in the federal landscape might warrant adjustment to the “pace” of implementation of the Act On Climate mandates. He then added, but “that’s on your plate”.

Indeed, it is the General Assembly’s job to create or alter the law ... and it is this Commission’s charter to recommend changes to the law ... or not.

Senator Rogers of this Commission has called for the **full repeal** of the Act On Climate. And while I would certainly welcome such ... over the past years and today we have suggested a more moderate approach.

For the near term, our Center suggests three items:

- **Repeal of RI’s Electric Vehicle mandate** – motorists should not be forced to buy more expensive vehicles that they don’t want; and as Director Gray repeatedly told you, RI cannot fill the federal subsidy gap for vehicle purchases and charging station infrastructure ... our state simply cannot afford to go this route alone
- **Withdrawal from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)** – a cap-and-trade compact among states that purposefully raises our electric bills ... estimated to cost RI ratepayers an extra \$37 million per year ... all without any meaningful carbon emissions reductions!
- **Third, Delay of all Act On Climate mandates** by at least 20 years so that Ocean Staters will **not** have to pay massive electricity price increases ... and giving us the time to see how technological advancements might make green energy production a more viable and market-ready option

As for longer term solutions, a third report, released just last month by our Center and our regional energy consortium partners, provides credible alternative energy strategies.

As previously stated, per our 2024 report, meeting our state’s and New England’s energy demands by keeping with current decarbonization goals and renewable energy mandates would cost our region a staggering \$815 billion.



Per our new 89-page 2026 report details total regional infrastructure savings of \$399.5 billion by going primarily nuclear, while an eye-popping \$708 billion could be saved via a natural gas strategy. **That's 30-50 BILLIOIN in savings for Rhode Island alone.**

And each of these more realistic scenarios means there still will be significantly lower carbon emissions compared to 1990, electricity rates would be significantly lower for customers than under our current Act On Climate path; and our power grid's reliability would be significantly increased so as to avoid any freezing in the dark scenario.

I encourage you to read our reports which have been submitted to this Commission. But there is little time to waste, as it will take years to build out the proper infrastructure even for natural gas or small modular nuclear reactors, as Michigan and Tennessee are in the advanced stages of doing.

I will conclude with an anecdote from 2012 when I testified for some energy bill that was going to increase fees for all RI electricity customers. I was stunned by what I heard from those in support of the bill, as they displayed nothing but blind adherence to emissions targets ... not once mentioning or expressing any concern about the higher fees and price increases that would be heaped upon the people; **Nobody cared about family budgets** – they only cared about meeting some arbitrary emission target.

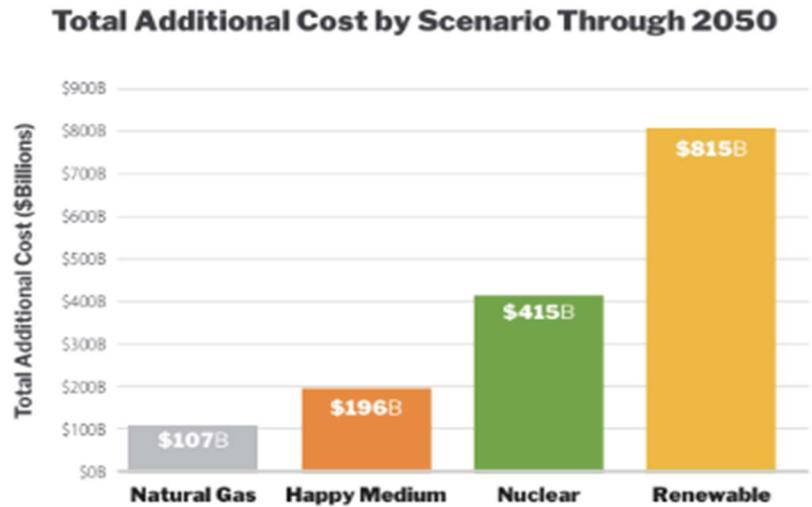
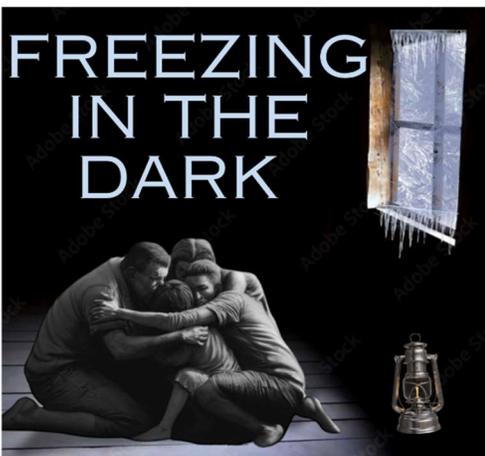


FIGURE 15. This figure shows the total additional cost, compared to the current grid, of each of the four scenarios studied in this report through 2050. Data from AOER's cost modeling.

It's the same thing with the Act On Climate ... nobody seems to care about cost burdens or affordability for the people ... it's only about meeting some arbitrary target that will benefit no one.

Back then, the public, to some degree, bought into the climate change hype and accepted these kinds of initial rate increases. But we're in a changed and more informed society now, as people understand that most of that doomsday talk and alleged benefits were a myth. As our petitioners - Rhode Islanders – have told you hundreds of times over, they can no longer afford consequences of the Act On Climate ... and they have virtually no appetite for the pending mandate restrictions.



Affordability will be the #1 issue in this year's election cycle. Unfortunately, RI's Act On Climate laws are completely unaffordable. Nobody wants an Energy Affordability Crisis or any **possible Freezing in the Dark** risk. But unfortunately, this is the path we are on.

So, in direct contrast to the title of your Commission – I'm sorry to say that **there can be no successful implementation of the Act On Climate**- when it comes to the overall good of our state.

Rhode Island needs a new, or amended, realistic and affordable energy strategy.

And, I repeat Director Gray's words from last week to you ... "it's on your plate" ... the ball is in this Commission's court ... the future prosperity of our state is at stake.

I would like to also add that the author of our 2024 and 2026 reports, referenced in this presentation, Isaac Orr, an professional energy expert, has agree to testify to this Commission ... if he can do some remotely via the Internet. I ask Chairman Zurier to consider my request and his offer for future hearings.

Thank you. I'm happy to field any questions you may have.