

Testimony in Opposition to S 2516 (AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS
-- DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND CARRIERS)

George Voutes, 17 Shore Road, Bristol RI, 02809

Hearing date April 28, 2026

Chairman Britto and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

I oppose Bill S 2516. Repealing the energy efficiency charge is ill-advised, ill-timed and not in the best interests of RI residents, and businesses. The energy efficiency charge on RIE bills funds Energy Efficiency Programs, used all the time (and increasingly) by RI residents and businesses. These programs include no cost energy audits, incentives for energy efficiency upgrades, and rebates on energy-efficient appliances. These are ESSENTIAL program, and not nice to have ones that will be eliminated by this bill. This bill will also harm businesses that rely on helping residents and business carry out energy efficiency projects.

Energy efficiency programs are the best way (short of using no energy) to LOWER the crushingly high energy costs faced by RI residents and businesses. So why would you eliminate these benefits? It doesn't make sense, and repealing the efficiency charge will only INCREASE our energy costs further. Is this what the sponsors of this bill want? It certainly seems that way. The return on investment from the BENEFITS RI residents and businesses receive from the small energy efficiency charge they pay is outstanding. Why do you want to eliminate this high ROI? It just doesn't make sense.

Please do not advance S 2516. It is not in the best interests of your constituents, RI residents, and RI businesses.

Thank you.

George Voutes