



Senator Robert Britto, Chair
Senate Commerce Committee
Rhode Island Senate

April 28th, 2026

RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Opposes S2516.

Dear Chair Britto and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, **I write in strong opposition to Senate Bill 2516** which would repeal the energy efficiency charge.

Energy Efficiency Lowers Utility Costs and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Energy efficiency is widely regarded as a keystone policy that can help ratepayers use less energy to achieve the same comfortability and services in their home. Rhode Island's energy efficiency programs are rigorously tested by the Public Utilities Commission and are cost-beneficial, particularly when accounting for non-monetary benefits, like local job creation and reduced air pollution ([Energy Efficiency Council Annual Report](#), p. 5). These are benefits that are felt by all Rhode Islanders, not just those who take direct advantage of an energy efficiency program offering. While paid through utility bills, energy efficiency programs create real savings through cost-effective upgrades in weatherization and appliances. Directly participating in energy efficiency programs is one of the easiest ways that ratepayers can take more control over their utility expenditures and find ways to lower energy usage. These programs are accessible to homeowners and tenants, ensuring that all Rhode Islanders have some type of program available to them. Even without directly participating in energy efficiency programs, social benefits accrue from these programs, the non-monetary benefits mentioned earlier.

Energy efficiency is also one of the most cost-effective methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from a building while improving comfortability and performance. Reducing emissions from our existing building stock is crucial, as buildings account for about 32% of statewide emissions ([Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management 2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#)) but the state does not have a holistic plan to reduce emissions from this sector. Through existing energy efficiency programs Rhode Island has lowered the total amount of energy used by residents, even though demand for energy has increased ([Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Council Annual Report](#), p. 17). In this way, investing in energy efficiency measures has been a consistent way the state has worked to reduce emissions and work towards the mandates in the Act on Climate.

Eliminating the energy efficiency charge is a surefire way to eliminate jobs and ensure residents spend more on their utility bills over time. Programmatic funding cuts or elimination remove substantial benefits in terms of utility bill savings and greenhouse gas emission reductions, and risk increasing cost for ratepayers on a net basis.

Green Energy Consumers Alliance thanks the Committee for the opportunity to testify, and strongly urges against passage of S2516.

Sincerely,

Tina Munter, RI Policy Advocate

Green Energy Consumers Alliance

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