

Trafton testimony in behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island supporting S2354, Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee, May 20, 2026.

Dear Chairwoman Sosnowski and Honorable Committee Members ,

I'm Peter Trafton from Providence, Co-VP of Policy for the Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) writing in strong support for S2354, Sen. DiMario's resolution requesting the PUC to terminate gas line extension allowances (Docket 25 – 45 – GE).

The act on climate requires that we stop burning fossil fuels, like methane, deceptively referred to as “natural gas”. As you know, we are still waiting for the report from the PUC regarding Rhode Island's transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. While we wait, we still have a special deal that requires other ratepayers to provide funds for gas line extensions for new customers – a boon for RIE. This is left over from who knows when, to benefit the utility and take advantage of existing customers when we should be closing the gas system down.

ECRI strongly supports Sen. DiMario's resolution to the PUC. Ratepayer funding for new customers should never happen again. We urge you to advance this resolution as rapidly as possible and send it on to the PUC, who hopefully will get on board.

Please approve resolution asked 2354.

Thanks very much for considering my comments in ECRI's behalf.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Trafton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter Trafton
Co-VP for Policy
The Environment Council of Rhode Island