

As a person of faith affiliated with the Sisters of Mercy, I am writing to express my **support** for the following bills:

- S2801 – Solar Cost Education Act
- S2658 – Plug-In Solar
- S2529 – Next Generation Buildings
- S2260 – Benchmarking - large buildings
- S2218 – Performance Standards - large buildings

I urge the Committee to approve and pass these pieces of legislation and make sustainable solar energy more affordable and accessible for all Rhode Island residents. With Earth being one of the five critical concerns of Mercy, working towards a more sustainable world helps to preserve the integrity of our planet, as well as ensuring that all humans, animals, and plants can exist in their natural environments without disruption.

With climate change becoming an increasingly more pervasive and looming threat to our planet, shifting into renewable energy can work to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere. By aiming for net zero or net negative emissions, our planet can ameliorate much of the pollution that has already happened.

The aforementioned bills being considered today in the committee on environment and agriculture would be transformative in that they have no associated costs for ratepayers and come at very little cost to the state budget. I urge the committee to approve and pass these pieces of legislation so that Rhode Island can streamline approval processes and slash Rhode Island greenhouse gas emissions.

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