
Testimony in favor of S2218, S2529, S2535, S2658 and S2801

From Timmons Roberts <jtimmonsroberts@gmail.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 11:08 AM

To SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

- o Dear Chair Sosnowski and distinguished members of the Senate Environment Committee:

It is good to see your committee meeting again, and I want to extend my best wishes to the Chair.

I am writing in my personal capacity, as a volunteer speaking for myself, in favor of five bills on your agenda today. I'm unable to attend due to other commitments at that time.

I have been working on climate and clean energy policy for thirty years, including a series of research from my Climate and Development Lab at Brown studying state legislatures, and nearly a decade on the Science and Technology Advisory Board of the EC4.

With the short-sighted attack on clean energy by the federal administration, it's important for the states to keep moving forward. Many years of work has led the state of Rhode Island to see the value of clean energy in its economic planning. These five bills are logical next steps as we implement the ambitious goals we set based on the science, including in the 2021 Act on Climate you were leaders in passing.

I support:

S2218: Building Performance Standards Act of 2026

- o S2529: Next Gen Public Buildings
- o S2535: Resolution requesting the PUC consider the creation of a seasonal heat pump rate
- o S2658: Portable Solar
- o S2801: Solar Cost Reduction Act

You will hear from others about the details on each of these. To retreat into continued dependence on fossil fuels, with their terrible environmental impacts, hazards, and price volatility, would be a grave mistake.

Thank you for your attention and your courage keeping our state moving forward.

Sincerely,
Timmons Roberts