

**Trafton testimony in behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island supporting S2655, 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 S2655, Senator Britto's Electric Transmission Siting and Regulatory Act

To reduce the cost of electricity transmission and distribution, Rhode Island must guide and encourage our single powerful utility, through the Public Utilities and Carriers Commission, to minimize costs and maximize gains of electric grid improvements. We hear continually from RIE that they are responsible for power safety and reliability. Less often do they acknowledge any responsibility for efficiency and cost savings. This should be articulated as a responsibility for both the PUC and the utility. 2655 does this and extends it through the Energy Facility Siting Board. Siting issues are indeed an essential consideration for grid improvements including advanced conductors, grid-and entries enhancing technologies, and energy storage.

Such approaches and steadily advancing technologies are used more and more in other states. It is time they were put to work in Rhode Island. S2655 is a major step in this direction.

ECRI strongly supports Sen. Britto's S 2655. This is a well thought-out program that deserves our support and effort now. Please approve S3080. Now is the time for Rhode Island to join the leaders in electric grid improvements, to make electrical energy more affordable and reduce the need for more power by delivering it more effectively.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PTrafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

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