



Hannah Ellis
Bright Saver 501(c)(3)
Position: Support

RI Senate 2658
Written Testimony

Dear Chair Sosnowski, Vice Chair Britto, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Hannah Ellis, and I represent Bright Saver, a nationwide nonprofit dedicated to democratizing solar energy by building an accessible, plug-in solar movement across the United States. I respectfully submit this testimony in support of S2658. Passing this legislation would allow the people of Rhode Island to access plug-in solar, a technology used by millions of people in Germany, but restricted in the United States due to outdated utility interconnection rules and a lack of regulatory clarity that treat small plug-in devices the same as large rooftop solar arrays.

Certified plug-in systems are safe from shock hazards, overheating, and line worker hazards during a power outage. In fact, the risk is inaction. We know that consumers are [installing these systems already](#) whether or not they are certified for safety. This bill requires safety certification, which will protect the public, while also lowering electricity bills and greenhouse gas emissions at no public cost.

Additionally, independent analysis from Brooks Engineering shows that plug-in solar will have no net impact on the grid at the substation level even if 40% of households have 1,200W systems. Documentation can be found at BrightSaver.or/safety.

Right now, in Germany, four million of these systems are in use with no major safety incidents reported over a decade of experience. As of today, 34 states have already introduced legislation to follow Utah's lead. I urge you to join the national movement which we are seeing take hold across the political spectrum in red states, blue states, and purple states.

This bill will empower renters and homeowners to take control of their rising energy bills. In addition, when paired with batteries, plug-in solar provides backup power during outages, helping households stay safe during emergencies while reducing our dependence on an



increasingly fragile grid, deferring costly infrastructure updates, reducing pollution, and delivering public health benefits at no public cost.

I respectfully ask you to support plug-in solar legislation to help ensure that all households in Rhode Island have an affordable way to reduce their energy costs.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on S2658 and support legislation that expands access to affordable, scalable clean energy solutions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hannah Ellis