

TO: SLegislation@rilegislature.gov

SUBJECT: Support for Senate Bill No. 2658 Plug-In Solar

Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee

Rhode Island State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chair Sosnowski and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Caroly Shumway. I am a resident of Cumberland, RI, and an oceanographer, climate educator, and a member of the nonpartisan 800-member strong RI Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby (RICCL). **I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill No. 2658 Plug-In Solar, and I respectfully hope that you will support it too.**

This bill benefits all Rhode Islanders struggling to keep their energy costs down. This bill make solar accessible to those who can't use or afford rooftop solar panels including renters condo owners, and homeowners, so that they can tap into the cost-savings of solar electricity.

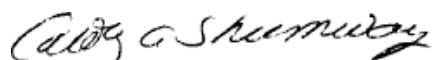
Don't believe what RI Energy tells you. While they should care about supporting all energy choices by their consumers, in reality, they have been shown by Brown University to be the top lobbyist and opponent of climate bills in the state (Brown University report, 2025, Who's Obstructing Climate Action in the Rhode Island Legislature).

No tax-payer dollars are needed to implement or to run plug-in solar. Germany has already installed more than 1 million systems. While Utah became the first U.S. state to pass such legislation last year, 25 states are considering plug-in solar. Let's help lead the way in the U.S.!

Eligible systems are safe, complying with rigorous safety standards (UL certification and National Electrical Code compliance. The primary safety feature is that an active grid connection is necessary to function. The system immediately shuts down when it gets unplugged; nobody can get shocked by touching the prongs of the plug; and, when there is a power outage in the grid: utility workers can work safely to restore power.

I humbly ask you to consider your own legacy and do the right thing. Make RI a leader again on the environment, as it once was with our recycling initiatives. We need to act now before it's too late – for the sake of our children and future children.

Sincerely,



Dr. Caroly Shumway, Cumberland, RI 02864