

Trafton testimony in behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island supporting S2658 at the meeting of the Senate Committee on Environment & Agriculture, April 15, 2026.

Dear Chair Sosnowski and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I'm Peter Trafton from Providence, co-VP of policy for the Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) writing in **strong support of 2658**, by Senator Valverde and colleagues. This bill, if it becomes law, will allow Rhode Islanders to use safety certified plug-in solar panels without the complex permitting requirements of our currently available home solar use. Furthermore, this technology is far less costly and can be used when a roof is unsuitable or the user rents or lives in multifamily building.

Plug-in solar has been used widely in Germany and other countries, is now legal in Utah and Maine and is being developed in many other states, just as we are doing so now in Rhode Island. Electricity costs that will be avoided by using plug-in solar appear to be on the scale of what the governor promises to achieve by disrupting the goals of the Act on Climate – certainly not all the electricity needed by Rhode Island home but enough to make a significant difference for the user.

ECRI, the Environment Council of Rhode Island has reviewed this bill and chosen to support it. We urge your committee and the general assembly to do the same. Let's make plug-in solar available here as it is in other states. Please pass S2658.

Thanks very much for considering my input.

Respectfully,

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

Peter Trafton
Co-VP of Policy,
Environment Council of Rhode Island