

April 14, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture

From: Nancy Safian, Providence resident

Re: S2658 and S2801

cc: Sam Zurier, Rebecca Kislak

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I am writing to ask the committee to please approve the Solar Cost Reduction Act and the Plugin Solar Bill. Both bills would reduce the price of solar energy for Rhode Islanders and make the use of solar more widespread across the state because of both cost and ease of use.

I know that there is some lobbying around the safety of plugin solar, but based on a long history in other countries, plus in Utah, there is little evidence of danger. In fact, Rhode Island Energy corporation has asked us to try to save electricity especially during peak times, wouldn't plug in solar be one simple and inexpensive way of accomplishing that goal?

Regarding the Solar Cost Reduction Act, the cost of rooftop solar in Rhode Island is extremely high. \$10,000-20,000 is untenable for many middle-class families. We have door-to-door salespeople coming to our house all the time and it is difficult to know which company is reputable and cost effective. An act that allows the most reputable companies to have easy access to quick permitting is helpful for both costs and for choosing the best, most honest and reliable solar companies.

In short, anything that makes installation and use of solar something that is simple and affordable will be best for the majority middle class residents of the state and for our climate and health.

Thank you for your consideration.