

Testimony in support of S2801: Solar Cost Reduction Act

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: April 15, 2026

To Chair Sosnowski and the honorable Members of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee:

The main reason that we pay three times as much for solar installations in the US compared to countries like Australia¹ is the excessive waste of time, money and red tape during our costly permitting processes.

I installed rooftop solar in 2022, and added more panels in 2024. In both cases, the utility rejected and delayed the applications several times, though all information had been provided by the installer, and then approved after the installer pointed out what was supposedly missing or unclear. Other residents had similar experiences.

We need to make solar more attractive, and simplifying and reducing the cost of solar permitting is a big step in the right direction.

It is overdue to remove arbitrariness from the permitting process and to reform and simplify solar applications, by amending the State's online E-Permitting Portal for automated plan review and instant permit issuance, using the process described in S2801.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2026.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Senator Valverde for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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¹ Roberts, David. 2026. "[How to make rooftop solar power as cheap in the US as it is in Australia](#)". Volts Podcast (Jan 28).