

April 10, 2026

The Honorable V. Susan Sosnowski
Chairwoman, Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

RE: S-2801 – Relating to Public Utilities & Carriers – Solar Cost Reduction Act

Dear Chairwoman Sosnowski:

On behalf of Rhode Island Energy, I write in **opposition** to S-2801, titled the “Solar Cost Reduction Act.” Our Company does not oppose the state’s clean energy or climate goals; however, **it is paramount that distributed energy resources, such as solar, are interconnected to the grid in a safe and reliable manner. As drafted, this proposed legislation conflicts with that important principle.**

Rhode Island Energy provides essential energy services to more than 770,000 customers across the state through the delivery of electricity and natural gas. Our team of 1,300+ union and non-union employees is dedicated to helping Rhode Island customers and communities thrive, while supporting the transition to a cleaner energy future in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner.

Our Company opposes the inclusion of § 39-36-12 (page 6) which would, in part, prohibit an electric distribution company from requiring “any inspection, verification, or approval in addition to the inspection performed by the municipal or local permitting authority as a condition of granting permission to operate a residential solar energy system or other eligible small-scale solar energy system or energy storage system.” **This language would create new risks for energy system safety and reliability.**

Rhode Island Energy’s Standards for Connecting Distributed Generation (R.I.P.U.C. No. 2258) details the interconnection process and explains that, following local municipal inspection and sign-off, the Company may perform an inspection or a Witness Test prior to operation. While it is not commonly required on small residential interconnections, it is necessary for this process to remain as-is and allow the Company to reserve these rights at its discretion. **A municipal inspection and a Company inspection examine different parts of the interconnection in accordance with different codes and technical standards. Therefore, one cannot replace the other.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



Nicholas S. Ucci
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee
The Honorable Bridget Valverde, Rhode Island Senate