



February 10, 2026

Hon. Louis DiPalma  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Finance  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903  
[SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov)

**Re: Article 11 of the Governor's proposed Budget; Renewable Energy Standards**

Dear Chair DiPalma,

BuildRI is a domestic non-profit trade association comprised of four (4) contractor associations (the Labor Relations Division of the RI Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, the New England Mechanical Contractors' Ass'n, the RI Mason Contractors' Ass'n, and the RI and Southeast MA Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors' Ass'n), and seventeen (17) Local Trade Unions comprised of approximately 10,000 local tradesmen and women. On behalf of our organization, I write to OPPOSE the above referred to provisions in the Governor's proposed budget for the reasons that follow.

As I am sure you know, Rhode Island's Act on Climate was passed by the Rhode Island General Assembly and signed into law in April 2021. In fact, Governor Dan McKee bill into law on April 14, 2021. This law sets mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements for the state by certain dates. To now, just five (5) years later modify the act to delay implementation of certain provisions of the act.

Specifically, Article 11 Section 10 would impose a new "grid access fee" on large-scale solar projects over 1 MW and adjust existing solar incentives in a way that threatens Rhode Island's clean energy market. A 55 MW project, for example, could face up to \$2.9 million annually in new fees- a cost that could halt projects in development, cancel contracts, lose trade employment, and undermine contractor confidence in Rhode Island as a stable place to invest. Large scale solar employ local union electricians, laborers, and engineers, as well as provide long-term operations & maintenance jobs. Clean energy investment is not just climate policy; it is economic development. These provisions risk stalling project pipelines and jeopardizing good local jobs.

At the same time, weakening net metering would undercut meaningful cost savings for public entities and ratepayers. Rhode Island already has the fourth highest electricity rates in the country; rolling back this program would not solve affordability, it would eliminate proven savings and shift more costs back onto municipalities, schools, hospitals, and households. At a time when energy bills are already straining family and municipal budgets, this proposal moves Rhode Island in the wrong direction. It creates economic uncertainty, threatens good jobs, and undermines one of the few tools that is delivering real savings to ratepayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory A. Mancini".

**Gregory A. Mancini**  
Executive Director/General Counsel