

May 12, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

Senator Louis P. DiPalma
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Testimony in Support of Governor's Budget Amendment #7

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Michelle Carpenter, Founder of CM Renewables, LLC. I am a Rhode Island resident with nearly 20 years of experience in distributed generation development, energy policy, and clean energy infrastructure.

I support Governor's Budget Amendment #7 and appreciate the Administration's willingness to work collaboratively with stakeholders to reach a practical compromise. The compromise appropriately protects existing operating projects and projects already substantially advanced in development.

Key Points:

- I helped coordinate an informal working group of clean energy stakeholders from both inside and outside Rhode Island that met regularly throughout this process to help align around a compromise framework.
- The clean energy industry largely supports the revised tariff proposal structure for operating and late-stage development projects.
- These projects provide long-term energy savings and budget stability for municipalities, schools, affordable housing providers, nonprofits, businesses, and residents.
- Maintaining regulatory and business certainty is critical to attracting private capital investment in Rhode Island's clean energy sector and other capital-intensive industries that support infrastructure investment and job creation.

Rhode Island's affordability concerns are real and should continue to be addressed thoughtfully during the Phase II process. As the State evaluates long-term affordability solutions, it is important to recognize that clean energy infrastructure investments can provide long-term benefits to ratepayers and the broader energy system. Local solar and

storage projects help diversify supply, reduce exposure to fuel volatility, improve resiliency, and support a more stable long-term energy market.

I appreciate the Administration's collaborative approach and look forward to continued dialogue during Phase II to help develop practical, forward-looking solutions that address affordability while supporting Rhode Island's long-term energy and economic goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michelle Carpenter

Michelle Carpenter

Founder

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