

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Cam Blain <cblain@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2026 11:42 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony in opposition to H7127: Governor's Budget Amendment 7, Art. 11, Sect. 7,8, 12, Hearing Date May 12, 2026

Testimony in opposition to H7127: Governor's Budget Amendment 7, Art. 11, Sect. 7,8, 12, Hearing Date May 12, 2026

Camille Nixon  
Warren, RI

To Chair DiPalma and the honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I oppose the Governor's Budget, Amendment 7, Art. 11, Sect. 7, 8, 12.

Please don't change the wonderful Act on Climate that was so diligently created and which made Rhode Island a beacon of how we can avoid climate-related catastrophe by employing the known clean energy alternatives such as wind and solar power instead of the polluting fossil fuels. Also, please don't add nuclear fission into our affordable and renewable energies under the false moniker of "zero-emission" and "clean" energy because while nuclear fission does not pollute the air, it does have a by-product of extremely dangerous radioactive nuclear waste that we, still, don't know what to do with! Until radioactive nuclear waste is dealt with besides burying it, we should stop any further encouragement or investment. Certainly, we must not greenwash nuclear waste as "zero-emission" or include it in our renewables as "clean." I mean, come on! This is not the whole truth and it is obscene to do this to our citizenry!

Thanks for helping to protect our planet.

Camille Nixon  
Warren, RI

## Attachment

### **Act on Climate and Renewable Energy Standard—Don't change the goal posts!**

The Rhode Island Act on Climate mandates to reduce Rhode Island's greenhouse gas emissions by 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, by 80% below 1990 levels by 2040, and to net-zero emissions by 2050.

The reason for mandating these reductions is that we cannot go on as we currently do, because we are emitting greenhouse gases at the historically highest level. Bringing these high emissions down as fast as possible,—now!—has leverage in reducing the global temperature increase that heats up the planet, causes severe weather and, if unchecked, will destroy the future of our children and the places we love. There is urgency, because waiting any longer to bring emissions down increases the risk that our climate will irreversibly reach a state that can not sustain human life.

There is more and more talk that we should move the mandates of the The Rhode Island Act on Climate further into the future, because of an increasing potential to not reach the 2030 target.

In addition, Governor McKee is implementing budget cuts that will possibly look good to his voters—by taking charges off the utility bills that support building efficiency and renewable energy—but which otherwise are harmful and counterproductive. It is necessary to pay for programs that make buildings more energy efficient, and that support solar energy, because the investment will pay back many-fold. To make things worse, his proposed lowering of the gasoline tax will incentivize driving and increase greenhouse gas emissions, instead of bringing them down. His measures to obstruct and raise cost of solar will steal the benefits of lower cost from Rhode Islanders, and drive solar installers away from Rhode Island. And, and this will have the most impact, he is moving the dates in the renewable energy standard from 100% by 2033 to dates that are decades into the future.

His budget is a straight from the playbook of the fossil fuel industry.

**Every seasoned professional project manager knows that moving the completion date of an aggressive goal into the future because the team begins to fall behind is taking the pressure off the effort, and usually the team will be as late at the moved completion date. We must never lower, or otherwise change a greenhouse gas emissions reduction mandate. If one of the Act on Climate (or Renewable Energy Standard) mandates is missed, we must be honest and open about it, learn from it and double down our efforts to get back on track as soon as possible and meet the subsequent mandates by the time the Act (or standard) require.**

It's like missing a mortgage payment. There is only one solution: you pay what you have missed and get back on schedule as soon as possible, otherwise the bank will sell your house. If we move the goal posts during the game, we will be

- Setting the wrong example / sending the wrong message for Rhode Islanders, who will be demotivated to take own action because the State is longer leading by example.
- Paying much higher electric and gas rates.
- Losing opportunities for a substantial creation of new jobs and for boosting our economy.

Page of 3 5 • Increasing pollution and asthma.

- Lowering our quality of living.
- Ultimately caving in to the fossil industry, letting them get away with polluting longer.

We actually know what to do, but we consistently don't do most of it. The solutions (solar, wind and batteries, and electrotech assets like electric vehicles, appliances and heat pumps) are available and less expensive than natural gas and other fossil fuels and assets that rely on these fuels.

Globally, 95% of new electricity generation in the last year has been from renewable sources. In the US, it has been 91%. Almost nobody installs fossil fuel generation anymore, because renewables are much less expensive.

If we go on instead without substantial change, it will be impossible to reach the 2030 mandate to reduce Rhode Island's greenhouse gas emissions by 45%.

The solution for Rhode Island to catch up and reach our mandate is an actual sense of urgency, and—above all else— better leadership:

- Leadership that not only recognizes that we are under an existential threat, but that also aggressively and effectively rallies and coordinates the legislature, State government and the public to take the urgent action needed to more rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollution. It might help to look back at how the COVID-response was lead by Governor Raimondo and her administration, how they communicated, and see what would apply to climate and environment.
- Leadership that expeditiously follows and implements the recommendations of our own

studies. Despite the fact that these studies consistently recommend to get out of gas and into renewable energy, and to reform how the utility does business, we have not sufficiently implemented their recommendations over at least seven years.

- Leadership that implements Utility Reform and aligns Rhode Island Energy’s business model with the Act on Climate, and with State climate policy that aggressively supports the renewables transition.
- Leadership that enables the Rhode Island Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council RIEC<sub>4</sub>
  - to move from their “menu of possibilities, i.e. the ”Rhode Island 2025 Climate Action Strategy”, to a state-of-the-art climate action plan,
  - to lead implementation with professional project management techniques,
  - to learn from best practices used by leading corporations that manage large projects on-time and on-budget.
- Leadership that supports the Rhode Island Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council RIEC<sub>4</sub> with legislative policies to accelerate implementation.

Page of 4 5 • **And, above anything else, leadership that is able to constructively deal with a setback in a long term project, a missed deadline, able to learn from the setback and improve the process, determined to rally the team to get back on track for the next milestone and successfully complete the project within the original timeline.**

Continuing what we are used to do—business as usual—, as convenient as it might be, is the most expensive option for Rhode Islanders.

#### Supporting data

- RI Act on Climate  
1
- RI Renewable Energy Standard  
2
- Energy 2035 Rhode Island State Energy Plan  
3
- Rhode Island 4600 Working Group Report  
4
- Rhode Island Power Sector Transformation—An inter-agency report from the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, Office of Energy Resources, and Public Utilities Commission  
5
- Preliminary report of the Future of Gas Study  
6
- Rhode Island 2025 Climate Action Strategy  
7
- The Electrotech Revolution, .  
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