



Senate Committee on Finance  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly  
February 10, 2026

Testimony in Opposition to *HB 7127*

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on the energy provisions included in the Governor's budget proposal. My name is Scott Elias, and I am the Director of Policy and Market Development at CleanCapital, an independent power producer that develops, owns, operates, and invests in distributed solar and energy storage projects across the United States.

CleanCapital has invested more than \$1.5 billion in clean energy projects serving corporations, municipalities, universities, schools, hospitals, utilities, and community solar subscribers. In Rhode Island, we have invested more than \$59 million to date and own and operate 12 projects totaling more than 26 megawatts, serving the City and School District of Central Falls, the YMCA, and Johnson & Wales University.

**Rhode Island leaders can and should take meaningful steps to address the state's rising energy burden. However, CleanCapital must respectfully express strong opposition to the retroactive net-metering and virtual net-metering provisions contained in HB 7127, which would undermine confidence in the durability of Rhode Island's clean energy policy framework and weaken the state's reputation as a reliable place to invest long-term capital.**

As currently drafted, HB 7127 would retroactively alter the compensation framework for operating solar projects by imposing new grid access fees and materially reducing compensation for larger projects—projects that were built, financed, and placed in service in good-faith reliance on Rhode Island law and Commission-approved regulatory frameworks in effect at the time of investment.

Distributed solar projects are capital-intensive infrastructure assets. Like many of our peers, CleanCapital relies on long-term, project-level debt structures that are underwritten against stable and predictable revenue streams established at the time of financing. Introducing new grid access charges or intentionally reducing compensation for operating projects after capital has been deployed unravels that financial foundation, creating material risk of covenant breaches, loan defaults, and broader financial stress across operating assets.

These changes would force asset owners, lenders, and developers to absorb multimillion-dollar losses in anticipated project revenue, coupled with millions of dollars in new, ongoing costs imposed on operating assets. For CleanCapital, this has already resulted in a pause on new investments in projects that require third-party financing and long-term ownership, including both operating assets and late-stage development projects developed in partnership with local Rhode Island developers that have already secured interconnection and were expected to be built under existing policy frameworks.

The consequences extend beyond project owners like CleanCapital. Municipalities, housing authorities, colleges and universities, and hospitals that rely on virtual net-metering arrangements for predictable energy savings would see the value of those pre-negotiated agreements materially reduced, undermining budget certainty and savings for essential public and community institutions.

As members of the Rhode Island General Assembly, you play a critical role in preserving both the integrity of the state's clean-energy transition and its reputation as a stable and predictable place to invest. Addressing affordability concerns through prospective, transparent, and data-driven reforms—rather than retroactive changes to operating assets—will better protect ratepayers while maintaining a financeable clean-energy market.

CleanCapital stands ready to work with policymakers on forward-looking solutions that address affordability while preserving regulatory certainty and prior investments in Rhode Island's energy system. We respectfully urge the Committee to reject retroactive changes and protect the integrity of Rhode Island's clean-energy framework.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Elias".

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