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Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Hearing Date: February 10, 2026
Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chair DiPalma and Finance Committee Members,

Please accept my testimony in opposition to the proposed Budget for 2027 which will result in:

- **A cap on energy efficiency programs (Article 11, Section 3, page 10)**
 - The problem becoming unfair financial advantage for consumers that can participate in the program early in the year, vs. a fair flow of funding throughout each year. Another problem being it is impossible to increase participation in distributed generation and achieve or exceed Renewable Energy Standard targets, if programs are financially capped.
- **A reduction in compliance payments (Article 11, Section 8, pages 19,27)**
 - The problem becoming less stringent standards for renewable energy procurement compliance. Reducing these payments is financially irresponsible, as it reduces the money available to the renewable energy development fund.
 - Reducing compliance payments also reduces the amount of funds available to provide direct rate relief to ratepayers, as per Section 8, page 27.
- **A 17-year delay to the Renewable Energy Standard (Article 11, Section 8, pages 22-23)**
 - The problem being that Rhode Island is already in a climate crisis and WE DO NOT HAVE TIME TO WAIT. The impacts of climate change are HERE. NOW. And they are financially devastating every single year that we have floods, and extreme storm damage which are all a *direct* result of increased temperatures from GHG pollution.
 - Prolonging Rhode Island's 100% Renewable goal from 2033 to 2050 is socially and financially irresponsible. It shows a lack of ambition on the part of the RI government to take nation-leading action on climate change, as we've done in previous years and it's disappointing to



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- think we are going to let other states down by backing away from leading policy.
<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/states-must-lead-the-way-on-climate/>
- See NOAA data on billion-dollar disaster events affecting RI:
<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/state-summary/RI>
 - And: <https://environmentamerica.org/rhodeisland/center/media-center/rhode-island-hit-by-weather-disasters-every-year-since-2010/>
 - Backing down from our emissions reductions targets will result in the reduced the health of Rhode Islanders. See, our own state website on the healthcare impacts of climate change:
<https://health.ri.gov/climate-change>
 - **Grid access fees to large-scale solar over 1MW, (Article 11, Section 10)**
 - This proposal is problematic because it is financially irresponsible to impose fees escalating from \$1400 (the low end for 1MW projects) up to \$22,800 (the LOW end for projects over 5MW) on developers that could choose any other state in which to build their projects. Even if such developers did stay in RI, it is inevitable that the grid access fees will be passed on to the ratepayers buying into community solar programs, the antithesis to the state's "least cost procurement" statute (39-1.27.7).
 - This proposal is problematic for the fact that it will deter larger companies in RI from putting solar on their buildings, creating an opportunity cost in lost potential for revenue from the renewable energy certificate market, taking passive cash flow out of our economy.
 - In addition, losing large scale solar developers in the state increases RI's reliance on out of state methane and other GHG fuel sources, thus destabilizing the 100% renewable targets that we have in place.
 - Furthermore, disincentivizing larger solar projects forces money out of state from business tourism, and forces jobs out of state.

As an environmentalist, I cannot stress enough that we are in a climate crisis and we DO NOT HAVE 17 YEARS to delay our renewable energy procurement goals. We don't have it. The port of Providence will be under water.

As a solar industry professional my personal livelihood is 100% dependent on a robust renewable energy target for RI and energy efficiency programs that empower the community to go solar. I've worked in this industry for 11 years and met thousands of people curious about solar, and I can tell you that ratepayers expect more progress on clean energy incentives and rate reduction in the coming years, not a backslide.



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Please consider my testimony in the best interest of ratepayers, Rhode Island, and our planet as a whole.

Thank you.

Regards,

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