

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

In opposition to Article 11, Section 7; Article 11, Section 10; and Article 11, Section 3

Dear Chair DiPalma and Finance Committee Members,

As a young Rhode Island voter, I urge you to oppose the sections of the proposed FY2027 budget that would cut renewable energy funding:

Article 11, Section 7 would add a 17-year delay to the Renewable Energy Standard. This would jeopardize our ability to meet legally mandated decarbonization goals under the Act on Climate, and keep energy scarce and expensive for ratepayer for years to come.

Article 11, Section 10 would propose to add a grid access fee to large-scale solar. This would disincentivize solar production, which is the most inexpensive and price-stable form of energy available. Keeping the grid on natural gas is not only more expensive but makes us vulnerable to price spikes due to geopolitical conflict.

Article 11 section 3 would place a cap on energy efficiency programs. This only ensures that ratepayers will be paying more money and burning more fuel for the same amount of energy.

These proposals are not affordability measures, they are a sugar high for the economy that will soon crash, leaving young Rhode Islanders like myself behind. In the long run, it will be my generation that bears the costs of this generation's choices, in flooded land, higher costs, and lost lives. The only way to prevent catastrophic warming and keep energy costs low is to plant the seeds for an abundance of clean energy.

The lobbying groups, whose form emails flood your inboxes, who that been seeking to roll back climate action for years, do not represent the interests of your constituents, or even small businesses as they claim. They are hired to represent the interests of out-of-state business elites alone.

We must not use the federal government's aggressive cuts to renewable energy funding as an excuse to do the same. During the first Trump administration, state governments like Rhode Island led the way to build the American clean energy economy. Today, we are letting Trump win.

Sincerely,

Evan Tao

Providence, Rhode Island