

Senate Finance Committee
The State House
Providence, RI 02903

February 10, 2026

Hearing on 2027 Budget Article 11

Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is **George Johnson** and I live in **Coventry**. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Sections 3, 7 and 10 in Article 11 of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. To meet our Act on Climate emissions reductions, we must take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support deployment of clean energy. These budget sections slash investment in energy efficiency and clean energy, and move RI further away from meeting our climate mandates.

As an Ocean State, much affected by the consequences of burning fossil fuels, Rhode Island must remain a leader in the transition to clean, renewable, and cost-effective energy sources and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels to curb greenhouse gas emissions and climatic warming.

Our state should not be complicit in the efforts of the Trump Administration to unwisely constrain the potential of renewable energy sources to reduce environmental harm and save consumers money. Any short term savings realized via these proposed changes in Article 11 will result in Rhode Islanders paying more to the giant fossil fuel corporations over the long term.

Personally, I have invested in many energy efficiency improvements for my family's home, leased an electric vehicle, and purchased two E-bikes to help Rhode Island achieve the goals of the Act on Climate. The programs funded by the State to assist residents in saving energy and converting to non-fossil fuel alternative were important considerations as I made these investments.

I sincerely hope that Rhode Island will not backtrack on its commitment to energy efficiency, clean energy, and reduced emissions as codified in the Act on Climate so that many others may join in helping secure the energy transition we need for a new renewable era.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this important topic.

George Johnson

Coventry, RI

