

February 10, 2026

Dear Chair DePalma, First Vice Chair Ciccone, Second Vice Chair Felag, Secretary Acosta, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to oppose House Bill No. H7127 in its entirety.

A 17-year delay to the Renewable Energy Standard (Article 11, Section 7) is bonkers and unacceptable. It sure feels like this bill is an election year ploy that puts RI in much worse shape, while pretending to help our state overcome the macro issues that have plagued RI for generations. Let's not fall into this short-term stinking thinking trap, but rather stay the course to continue our objective to transform RI into a cleaner state, with more good cleantech jobs.

Delaying the 100% Renewable Energy Standard 2033 to 2050 is irresponsible and only help destroy our economy and environment – while keeping dirty and costly natural gas in place a lot longer than needed.

What on earth are you thinking about creating of a monthly and in perpetuity grid access fee, along with reduced compensation rates for large renewable energy projects (1 MW or greater)? This is completely counter to what we in RI need, namely more solar and wind turbine deployment. Investments in solar and wind projects rely on the net metering assumptions to make the business case. Now you want to change all that and make businesses and residents pay more. Shameful!

As stated by Emily Koo of the Acadia Center, “There are sound, data-driven ways to reform incentive and compensation structures over time, but this proposal takes a sledgehammer to foundational alternative energy programs.

The budget proposal caps Rhode Island's cost-effective energy efficiency programs at \$75 million per year, which is 25% below the 2026 planned investment levels and 48% below the average of the past five years (both adjusted for inflation). At least keep the 2026 and 2027 program rates at 2024 and 2025 levels.

The budget's proposed bond for energy efficiency is NOT the answer and is one step closer to killing energy programs in RI.

The Governor's budget proposal slashes support for municipalities, businesses and residents to access financial and technical assistance for clean energy projects such as energy efficiency, solar, or electric vehicles. Really! RI needs such assistance to help transition to energy efficient solar, wind and electric forms of transportation.

The Governor's budget proposal locks Rhode Island into an outdated energy system and strips us of our most potent tools to address skyrocketing energy costs and, most

importantly, it prevents Rhode Island from doing its part to address the Climate Crisis by locking us into an antiquated 20th century system at a time when the programs he wants to cut is an investment in a 21st century system that will control costs into the future.

I urge you to reject this budget and instead adopt the necessary modifications to get us where we need to be, now and into the future, while truly reducing the current high costs for energy via the use of clean renewable energy. Families, friends and future generations are counting on you to do the right thing and keep us on a path to renewable energy, cleantech good jobs, and more sustainable Ocean State.

*George Voutes*

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