

Senate Finance Committee
The State House
Providence, RI 02903

February 10, 2026

Hearing on 2027 Budget Article 3

Dear Chair DiPalma and Committee members,

My name is George Johnson and I live in Coventry. I am submitting testimony in support of Article 3 Section 16 of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. To meet our Act on Climate emissions reductions, we must take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our building sector. A state facilities benchmarking and building performance standards program would lead the way for our large buildings to track and report their energy usage and can help building owners reduce emissions over time.

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.

I sincerely hope that Rhode Island will continue and strengthen its commitment to energy efficiency, clean energy, and reduced emissions as codified in the Act on Climate. The enactment of Section 16 will help in this effort, 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