

February 10, 2026

Senate Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair DiPalma and Finance Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to the following articles and sections of Governor McKee's proposed budget:

Article 11, Section 3

Article 11, Section 7

Article 11, Section 10

**Article 11, Section 3** proposes a cap on cost-effective energy efficiency programs at an amount that is 24% below planned 2026 investment levels.

- Energy efficiency programs reduce our state's electric load, reduce energy costs, support the local economy, and combat climate change.
- Enacting Article 11, Section 3 would be a wasteful, illogical move that punishes ratepayers and weakens our local economy.

**Article 11, Section 7** proposes a 17-year delay to the Renewable Energy Standard (RES).

- Enacting this delay will expose our state to price jolts from natural gas. We have all seen how much price volatility there is with natural gas as geopolitics shift, and we have experienced how expensive it is even without such shocks.
- The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects **gas prices will increase 33% or more in 2026**.
- Rhode Island has a smart, reasonable RES that makes our state a leader. Article 11, Section 7 of this budget brings our state backward and makes us vulnerable and dependent.

**Article 11, Section 10** proposes a grid access fee for large-scale solar. This is nothing more than an effort to throw cold water on a deeply needed source of clean power.

- It is punitive to current virtual net metering customers, including hospitals and universities.
- It creates a negative business environment through a bait and switch.
- It will lead to disinvestment in our state economy.
- It will destabilize our energy procurement, causing Rhode Island to depend on expensive, highly polluting "peaker" plants at times of high electricity demand.
- Rhode Island needs to diversify its energy sources, take advantage of the benefits of solar, and create conditions where our local institutions can opt for business practices that have positive effects on Rhode Island, rather than be retroactively punished for opting for clean energy.

Five years ago, Governor McKee demonstrated he had a positive vision for our state when he signed the Act on Climate bill into law. A difficult political cycle does not warrant the kind of backtracking that endangers our state's economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gillian Kiley  
Cranston, RI