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February 10, 2026

VIA EMAIL (SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov)

Senator Louis P. DiPalma Chair, Senate Finance Committee Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

sen-dipalma@rilegislature.gov

Re: Opposition to H 7127; An Act Relating to Making Appropriations for the Support of the State for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2027 – Article 11, Section 10

Dear Senator DiPalma,

I write in opposition to Section 10 of H 7127. I write to you in your capacity as Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, as this budget bill is pending before your Committee. I am VP of Business Development and Policy at Green Development, LLC (“Green”) where I have worked for the past 10.5 years. Historically, Green has been one of the largest renewable energy developer and construction firms in the state, having commissioned and operated over 188 MW of wind and solar projects in the past 11 years.

The Virtual Net Meter Credit program in the state allows us to send renewable energy to various governmental and tax-exempt entities at a discount to the current energy rates, creating significant savings for these dollar-conscious nonprofits, municipalities, public entities, universities, quasi-public entities and housing authorities. **Our projects will save Rhode Island public entities over \$7.5 million on electric bills in 2026.** These, of course, are 100% taxpayer funded entities. In addition, annual tax revenue to municipalities hosting the projects will amount to over \$1million in 2026.

The additional kW surcharge (the “grid access fee” found on P.223 of 2026 -- H 7127) for renewable energy projects **will bankrupt these projects, plain and simple.** A quick calculation of the grid access fee shows that over 100% of the cash flow after debt service will be wiped out on every solar project we have in operation, forcing us to shut down the facilities entirely.

Green invests heavily in utility infrastructure with every project built. For one example, we developed, built, and operate a 49.3 MW/DC solar project in North Smithfield. The

Green Development, LLC

2000 Chapel View Blvd, Suite 500
Cranston, RI 02920

(401) 295-4998 (Main)
www.green-ri.com



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interconnection fees totaled \$20.2 million which were paid up front and in advance by Green and included a brand new substation. The utility company owns all of the grid infrastructure upgrades paid for by Green. The new “grid access fee” would charge this project an additional \$2million per year for accessing the infrastructure already paid for with Green’s massive initial investment. The project would cease to operate and all savings to RI non-profits, cities, towns, hospitals, universities, housing authorities, and other public entities would end.

The renewable energy industry is already in a state of turmoil from punitive and anti-renewable federal administration policies. Additionally, we have to wait 4+ years for utility interconnection studies to be completed and incur \$50,000+ in expenses for any large project. Our projects are experiencing cost increases in equipment, labor, and tariff hikes, and elimination of federal tax credits. There are very few companies still operating in clean energy in Rhode Island. This grid access fee would certainly be the final nail in the coffin for any project that has managed to squeak by all of the current road blocks. Most shockingly, this budget article will shut down any projects that have already been in operation providing benefits to Rhode Island taxpayers and ratepayers for many years – 10 years in some cases.

We truly hope you will find a way to eliminate this proposed “grid access fee” completely, and work with regulators, the utility company and our industry to control costs in a less harmful way.

Thank you for your consideration and please reach out to me with any questions.

Best Regards,

Hannah Morini
VP Business Development & Policy

Cc: SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov