

**Senator Louis DiPalma, Chair**  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island Senate

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Opposes Budget Article 11, Sections 7 and 8 in H7127 (Fiscal Year 2027 Budget).**

Dear Chair DiPalma and members of the committee,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, **I write in strong opposition to Budget Article 11, Sections 7 and 8 in House Bill 7127 (Fiscal Year 2027 Budget)** which seek to push out Rhode Island's Renewable Energy Standard and create an additional Clean Energy Standard. Those proposed changes are simply not in compliance with the Act on Climate.

**Rhode Island Must Remain on Track to Achieve Act on Climate Goals**

The Act on Climate mandates that Rhode Island reduce its total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45% by 2030 and net zero by 2050. According to the 2025 Climate Action Strategy (CAS), approved by the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) in December 2025, Rhode Island is approximately on track to meet the 2030 AOC target under current existing policies. We would like to note that our assessment is that the EC4 report is overly optimistic in the achievable emissions reductions and that new policies are needed to meet the mandate. Regardless, Sections 3 and 8 of H7127 will significantly reduce the likelihood of Rhode Island achieving those targets.

*Figure 3: Economy-wide GHG Emissions Under the Current Policy Scenario*

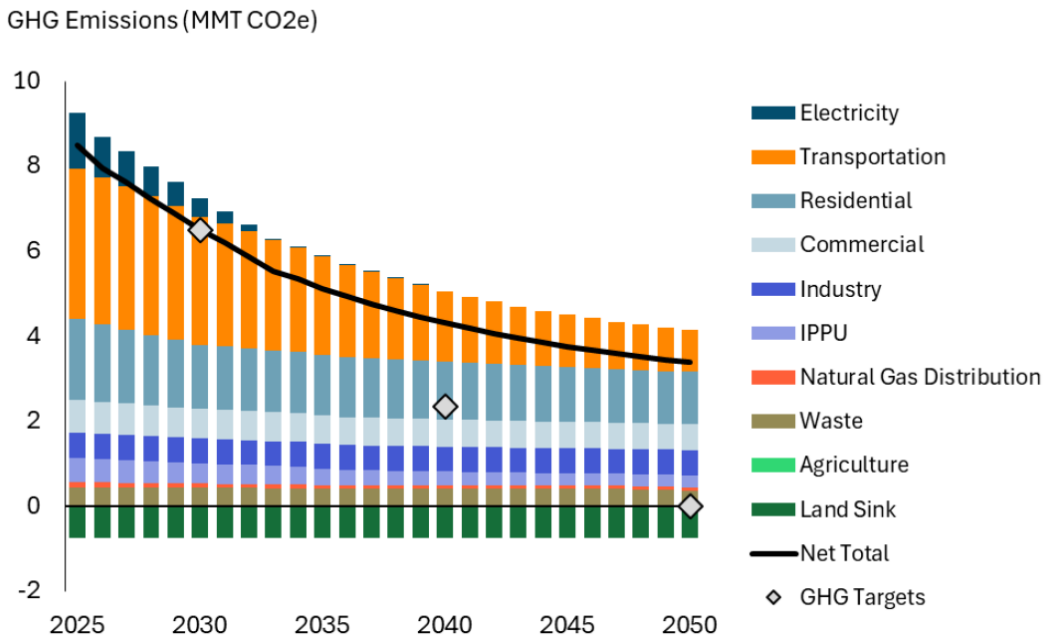


Image from 2025 Rhode Island Climate Action Strategy, pg. 12.

After the Senate Finance Committee hearing on February 10<sup>th</sup>, which heard the same budget sections as what will be heard this evening, it has become clear that our state agencies are weakening their resolve to meet the mandates in the Act on Climate. We analyzed a few comments made by Chris Kearns, the Acting Commissioner of the Office of Energy Resources and Linda George, Administrator of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers in a recent blog: [Rhode Island State Agencies Give Up on Clean Energy and The Act on Climate](#).

With state agencies seemingly conceding state climate mandates, the legislature must remain firmly committed to the Act on Climate and the opportunity to create an affordable energy future through renewable energy deployment.

### **Section 7: Clean Energy Standard**

The creation of a Clean Energy Standard (CES) increases the amount of nuclear and large-scale hydro resources in the state's electricity portfolio. However, the addition of those resources will not increase the quantity of clean energy in the region, because those resources already exist. The money spent on procuring nuclear or hydro renewable energy credits (RECs) or paying the alternative compliance payment (ACP) for those resources would be better spent on developing new wind and solar resources and bolstering existing heat pump and electric vehicle rebates. Those are resources that will add to the clean energy mix in the region while creating co-benefits like jobs and reduced air pollution and can lower ratepayer utility bills through energy efficiency.

### **Section 8: Renewable Energy Standard**

This section proposes to make several changes to the existing 100% by 2033 Renewable Energy Standard (RES). The most notable change proposed in the April 29<sup>th</sup> amendment to H7172 is rolling back the renewable energy standard and changing the stringency of the law. The amendment would only require a 75% RES in 2050, and worst of all, lowers required compliance compared to current RES levels through 2033. It actually takes us backward. The RES is a foundational policy to ensure the state complies with the 2030 AOC target and pushing it out would introduce significant uncertainty that the state is not prepared to address through other policies.

Delaying the transition to clean electricity will prolong Rhode Island's dependence on imported fossil fuels, hitching ratepayers to a volatile fuel source with costs projected to rise over time, and with costs fluctuating with geopolitical events, as is being seen with gas prices right now. Without the 100% by 2033 RES, the state cannot meet the 2030 AOC target. While other sectors (e.g. transportation, building) could theoretically reduce emissions on a faster timeline to make up for the loss left by pushing out the RES, there are no policies in place for those sectors to speed up emissions reductions. Plainly, this proposal deliberately makes it harder to achieve the AOC while also reducing future clean energy development and clean energy job growth in the state.

This section also proposes to adjust the alternative compliance payments (ACP) that can be made if obligated entities do not meet their RES obligation in a compliance year. It creates two tiers for renewable energy qualifying resources and for clean energy standard resources of \$50.00 and \$12.00, respectively. What this amendment also does is carve out the ACP fee for clean energy standard resources in 2030, adjusting the ACP to \$25.00 for that compliance year only, before reverting back to \$12.00. This carve out could result in a situation where obligated entities bank clean energy credits in years prior to 2030 and then utilize their banked credits to reach compliance in 2030 to avoid paying the higher ACP and show compliance with the Act on Climate. This section

also extends the timeline that RECs can be banked for and expands the amount of banked RECs that can be utilized for RES compliance from a 30% share of an entity's obligation to an uncapped share. Green Energy Consumers is opposed to this proposal as well.

### **Conclusion**

To achieve the requirements of an Act on Climate, Rhode Island must remain committed to the policies already in place intended to reduce utility bills, incentivize deployment of in-state renewable resources, and procure clean electricity. The amended proposals in Article 11, Sections 7 and 8 of H7127 will make it more difficult to meet the legally binding mandates within the Act on Climate and can increase utility bills for ratepayers.

Green Energy Consumers Alliance urges the committee to reject these proposed amendments as they are not pathway to lowering and stabilizing utility bills for Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Tina Munter, RI Policy Advocate  
**Green Energy Consumers Alliance**  
[Tina@greenenergyconsumers.org](mailto:Tina@greenenergyconsumers.org)