

February 10, 2026

**Testimony in opposition to Governor McKee's FY27 budget proposal, including:**

- a 17-year delay to the Renewable Energy Standard (Article 11, Section 7)
- a proposal to add a grid access fee to large-scale solar (Article 11, Section 10)
- a cap on energy efficiency programs (Article 11, Section 3)

Dear Chair DiPalma and honorable Finance Committee Members,

There is nothing affordable about Governor McKee's "Act on Affordability." Slashing investments in renewable energy is a financial win for RI Energy though, who will continue passing on costs to Rhode Islanders while employing pro-gas lobbyists at the state house and spending millions to renovate and expand natural gas pipelines throughout New England. Rhode Islanders now pay more for pipelines and distribution than they do for gas itself.

Other forward-thinking New England states are reducing consumer energy costs and emissions. Maine has become the nation's leader in home electrification and heat pump adoption. Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont recently pooled resources to add 173 MW of solar energy to their regional grids in time to advantage of expiring federal clean energy credits. Meanwhile, Rhode Island is about to take a 17-year backstep.

While the cost of renewable energy continues to drop, the "Act on Affordability" locks Rhode Islanders into decades of toxic fossil fuel use and its rising costs, not to mention the consequential increases in healthcare premiums and climate change mitigations.

I urge you to put Rhode Island residents before corporate interests. Stand strong on climate mandates.

Sincerely,

Jessica Allen

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Allen".

Barrington, Rhode Island

Sources:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RimJSA6XOhVuNK94TwTK53pSeVldihvS/view>

<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/news-releases/news-releases---2025/connecticut-and-new-england-state-partners-announce-clean-energy-selections>

<https://ieefa.org/resources/fossil-fuel-prices-skyrocket-globally-renewables-grow-steadily-cheaper#:~:text=ln%20contrast%20to,supply%20and%20prices>

<https://eelp.law.harvard.edu/cleanlaw-how-maine-became-a-heat-pump-leader/>