

Senator Louis P. DiPalma, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
RI State Senate

February 10, 2026

OPPOSITION regarding H7127 Article 11 Sections 3-11

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed FY27 budget items in Article 11 Sections 3-11. The restructuring of the Renewable Energy Standard and the trimming of the many state energy efficiency programs are shortsighted. Sure, reducing the amount of money earmarked for these effective, nationally recognized programs will reduce ratepayers' bills in the short run and produce the desired affect at the ballot box this November. I know, as does the Governor's office, all voters would love to see their energy bills reduced. But what happens in the long run? You can't keep cutting these energy-saving programs and expect a positive future result!

The real reason energy bills will go down next year is because Revolution Wind will be sending low-cost electricity to our grid. That is where we should be focusing our efforts (that's where I'm focusing mine) - building out more renewables and not high-cost nuclear fantasies!

These cuts and the dismantling of the Renewable Energy Standard will also result in increased demand for fossil fuels, which will lead to a price increase. That is exactly where the federal administration would like us to be - more dependent on fossil fuels and paying more for them! Rhode Island is being played and some of us are falling for it. The fossil fuel companies and the government **they** run could not be happier. It was a fairly easy effort by the fossil fuel industry, and Rhode Island leadership is seemingly oblivious to the trap. Expansion of statewide petroleum use will not be good for anyone except the bottom line of out-of-state fossil fuel companies!

Rhode Island needs to work to keep our energy dollars in our state. We need to develop more solar, wind, and energy storage projects without levying project-killing taxes and fees.

Thank you for reading my testimony and please oppose these disastrous cuts.

Sincerely,

Joel Gates
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