

February 10, 2026

Senate Finance Committee

Rhode Island State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chair DiPalma and Finance Committee Members,

I'm a Brown University student from Cranston, and I oppose Article 11, Sections 3, 7, and 10.

Section 7 sets a dangerous precedent for climate action in our state. The purpose of the Act on Climate—a landmark piece of climate legislation, one that many climate advocates and legislators are proud to have supported in 2021—is to set limits and deadlines on our state's emissions. If the dates laid out in the Act on Climate can be pushed back, there is no reason to have passed it at all. Climate change is bad and worsening. Now is not the time to regress. The renewable energy standard is no exception to the regression proposed in Governor McKee's budget.

Section 10 adds fees to solar energy projects. Renewable energy does not need to be cost prohibitive, but setting fees on grid access—as Section 10 proposes—will make it so. I object to section 10 for this reason. Imposing a fee will only slow climate action in a coastal state which will be among the first to feel the impacts of rising sea levels. Furthermore, expenditure on the cleanups of inevitable flooding will increase burden on Rhode Islanders. Section 10 presents an opportunity to prevent a future budget crisis by taking climate action now.

I hope you will seriously consider the reasoning laid out above. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Theo Pfeiffer, Cranston, RI