



RIEEA

Rhode Island Environmental
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On Behalf of the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association

In Support of S-2248 – Income-tiered utility subsidies for low income homes

Senate Finance Committee

Thursday, May 21, 2026

The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) supports **S-2248** and respectfully urges its passage.

This bill would establish a tiered, income-based utility payment program to ensure that electricity and gas costs remain affordable for low-income households across Rhode Island. By capping energy expenses as a percentage of household income, providing predictable monthly payments, and addressing existing arrearages, the program would help stabilize access to essential energy services. We are encouraged that the legislation also connects participating households with energy efficiency programs, creating opportunities for residents to build knowledge and skills around energy use and conservation. Advancing energy literacy in this way aligns with RIEEA's mission to ensure all Rhode Islanders have access to relevant, accessible environmental learning, while supporting more equitable and sustainable energy outcomes across our communities.

The RIEEA membership includes over 70 organizations¹ including Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Save The Bay, the Rhode Island Conservation Districts, and Rhode Island College, as well as over 400 individuals including youth and students. RIEEA's membership and supporters care deeply about Rhode Island's natural places, health, and economic stability. I encourage you to pass this important legislation, **S-2248**.

¹ <https://www.rieea.org/about-us/organizational-members/>