

**Trafton testimony in behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island supporting S2449 -
Senate Finance Committee, May 21, 2026.**

Dear Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee Members,

I'm Peter Trafton from Providence, Co-VP of Policy for the Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) writing in strong **support of S 2249**, by Senator Valverde and colleagues.

This bill exempts Rhode Island sales tax for energy storage systems as defined in § 39-33-1.

Essentially all other components of solar systems that Rhode Islanders seek to place on their roofs have this exemption. The Trump administration's policies have removed various subsidies for clean energy. It would be most appropriate for our state to grant this small bit of assistance to Rhode Islanders efforts to move from costly polluting fossil fuel to money-saving, healthy renewable energy such as that produced by solar systems.

ECRI urges you to pass 2449 to add a small amount of assistance to a public good.

Thanks very much for considering my comments in ECRI's behalf.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PTrafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Peter Trafton, Co-VP for Policy
The Environment Council of Rhode Island