



**2026 EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**Chair**

Steve Noyes  
PKF O'Connor Davies LLP

**Chair Elect**

Betty Robson  
JF Moran

**Secretary**

Jean Harrington  
Duffy & Sweeney, LTD

**Treasurer**

**Michael Souza**  
Landmark Medical

**Immediate Past Chair**

Jennifer Morrison  
Amica

**Executive Committee**

**At-Large Member**

Elizabeth McClaine  
Neighborhood Health Plan RI

Amy Vogel  
Dr. Day Care

**Legal Counsel**

Kelley O'Donnell, Esq.  
Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP

**President/CEO**

Monika P. Zuluaga

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Louis DiPalma  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Northern RI Chamber of Commerce (NRICC), which represents businesses in Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield, and Woonsocket, I respectfully submit this testimony in support of S.2764, An Act Relating to Public Utilities – Renewable Energy Standard.

The Chamber supports Rhode Island's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning toward a cleaner energy future. In 2022, the General Assembly enacted legislation establishing a goal of achieving 100% renewable electricity by 2033. This goal is the most aggressive goal in the nation. While the objective is commendable, current market conditions and energy supply realities make it increasingly difficult to meet that timeline without significant reliance on costly Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) purchased from out-of-state producers.

This approach risks increasing electricity costs for Rhode Island businesses and residents while providing limited direct environmental benefit within our state. Employers across Northern Rhode Island continue to face rising operational costs, and energy affordability remains a critical concern for businesses of all sizes.

S.2764 provides a practical and balanced path forward by maintaining the state's commitment to emissions reduction while recognizing the importance of affordability, reliability, and supply constraints. Specifically, the legislation expands the list of eligible energy resources to include nuclear energy generation and large-scale hydroelectric power. These energy sources produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions and can serve as dependable components of a lower-carbon energy portfolio. Nuclear power, in particular, produces zero carbon emissions during operation and maintains a lifecycle carbon footprint comparable to or lower than many traditionally recognized renewable sources.



The bill also adjusts the renewable energy standard deadline from 2033 to 2040. The Chamber supports this revised timeline, as well as the Governor's discussions regarding extending implementation to ensure the transition occurs responsibly and sustainably. A measured timeline allows the state to continue expanding renewable infrastructure while accounting for supply availability, technological advancement, grid reliability, and economic impacts on ratepayers.

Importantly, extending the deadline does not diminish Rhode Island's environmental goals. Rather, it allows policymakers to pursue those goals in a data-driven and cost-effective manner while preserving competitiveness for local businesses and protecting consumers from unnecessary energy cost increases.

**The Northern RI Chamber of Commerce remains supportive of clean energy initiatives that balance environmental progress with economic realities. S.2764 reflects that balanced approach, and for these reasons, we respectfully urge its passage.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monika Zuluaga". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Monika" and last name "Zuluaga" clearly legible.

Monika P. Zuluaga  
President & CEO