



For a thriving New England

CLF Rhode Island 235 Promenade Street  
Suite 560, Mailbox 28  
Providence, RI 02908  
P: 401.351.1102  
F: 401.351.1130  
www.clf.org

*Via Electronic Mail*

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Jacob Bissaillon  
Chair, Senate Housing and Municipal Government  
Room 212, State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: CLF **Opposes** Senate Bill No. 2800 For Environmental Justice Reasons –  
ABANDONED PROPERTY

Dear Chair Bissaillon:

The Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill No. 2800, which amends R.I. Gen. Laws § 34-44-12(d) by adding a new priority in a sale of abandoned property to any party willing to: “(5) Install an energy storage system, as defined in § 39-33-1, on the property”.

CLF is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting New England’s environment for the benefit of all people. CLF uses the law, science, and markets to create solutions that preserve our natural resources, build healthy communities, and sustain a vibrant economy. We have a long history of working in partnership with impacted communities on environmental justice issues and the siting of energy facilities.

While CLF supports the construction of new energy storage systems, siting of energy storage systems in environmental justice communities raises legitimate concerns for these communities.<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island does not have an environmental justice law ensuring that environmental justice communities have meaningful participation in any decisions to site energy storage systems in environmental justice communities. To the extent that Senate Bill No. 2800 makes it possible to site energy storage systems in environmental justice communities without meaningful participation by the environmental justice community, CLF must oppose Senate Bill No. 2800.

We therefore ask that you do not pass Senate Bill No. 2800.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

---

<sup>1</sup> Environmental Justice and Renewable Energy and Storage, EPRI, November, 2022; available at [file:///C:/Users/rstang/Downloads/3002024572\\_Environmental%20Justice%20and%20Renewable%20Energy%20and%20Storage%20\(3\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/rstang/Downloads/3002024572_Environmental%20Justice%20and%20Renewable%20Energy%20and%20Storage%20(3).pdf)



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Stang", is written in a cursive style.

Richard Stang  
Senior Attorney, Rhode Island  
Conservation Law Foundation

cc: Members of the Senate Housing and Municipal Government Committee  
Senator Matthew L. LaMountain  
Darrèll Brown, Vice President, Rhode Island, Conservation Law Foundation