



RHODE ISLAND
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March 21, 2024

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman
House Committee on Corporations
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 7431 An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Net Metering

Dear Chairman Solomon,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 7431, which would make technical corrections to a renewable energy siting law enacted in 2023. DEM supports this legislation.

H 7431 would correct a drafting error included in legislation enacted last year which limits access to the state's renewable energy incentive programs for projects located in core forests. Specifically, the law currently includes a definition of the term "core forest" which references forests located "at least twenty-five (25) acres from mapped roads..." when it should refer to twenty-five yards. This correction will ensure that DEM, in partnership with the Office of Energy Resources and Rhode Island Energy, can smoothly implement the requirements in the law.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. Please feel free to contact Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Director of Legislative Affairs, at ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

cc: Members of the House Committee on Corporations
The Honorable June Speakman
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director