

Testimony in support of H7616: Renewable Ready Program

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: March 21, 2024

To Chair Solomon and the honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee:

I support the bill as the right step to promote the deployment of renewable energy generating projects in Rhode Island, while preserving the most valuable forests by using other locations where it would be beneficial to the redevelopment of defined available sites.

These sites are either state owned or managed, and / or rooftop of a public, municipal or state-owned building, state property adjacent to a highway or major road, owned by the electric distribution company and subject to the environmental response, and /or have a history of contamination.

The bill

- provides for a process for the Office of Energy Resources to identify and prioritize eligible sites and their renewable energy production potential,
- establishes a renewable ready fund within the Rhode Island infrastructure bank to provide federal and state financial assistance and incentives to developers, to be used to cover the costs of site preparation and of connecting renewable energy generation projects to the electric distribution system.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2024. There is urgency in the transition away from fossil to renewable energy because of the accelerating climate crisis, and of the need to close the gap to meeting the Act on Climate greenhouse gas emissions mandates, so waiting any longer will be counterproductive.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Speakman for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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