



**Representative Solomon, Chair**

House Corporations Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

**March 21st, 2024**

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the Committee,

Green Energy Consumers Alliance is a nonprofit advocate based in Providence, Rhode Island and Boston, Massachusetts. We are dedicated to speeding the transition to a net zero carbon energy system in New England. We help our thousands of members make sustainable energy choices, and we advocate for ambitious and practical state energy policy. On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, **I write in support of House Bill 7616: An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Renewable Energy Ready Program.**

The Act on Climate mandates that Rhode Island reduce its total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 45% by 2030 and net zero by 2050. However, the International Panel on Climate Change report strongly encourages governments to reach net zero by 2040. Whether the date is 2040 or 2050, we need rapid deployment of renewable energy to reach our targets and comply with the 100% Renewable Energy Standard. Senate Bill 2293 will help us expand solar development on preferred sites.

In March 2021, Synapse Energy Economics completed a study on [Solar Siting Opportunities for Rhode Island](#). Synapse found that Rhode Island has 4,680 MW of solar potential on preferred sites such as rooftops, brownfields, landfills, gravel pits, and parking lots. However, the cost of developing these sites may be higher than equivalent installations on conventional ground-mounted sites due to additional permitting, construction, and site remediation costs. We appreciate that this bill would establish a “renewable ready fund” at the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank to be used to pay for part of interconnection costs at these preferred sites.

This Renewable Ready Program is key to meeting the Act on Climate mandate and 100% renewable energy by 2033 by allowing for the responsible siting of solar. We urge the committee and the full General Assembly to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,

Amanda Barker, Policy Advocate

**Green Energy Consumers Alliance**

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