

RI House Committee on Environment & Agriculture
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

March 21, 2024

RE: H7616 RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – RENEWABLE READY PROGRAM

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture:

Our firm writes in support of H7616. This bill engages the Office of Energy Resources to fulfill on Rhode Island's commitment to lead by example in ushering in a new clean energy future.

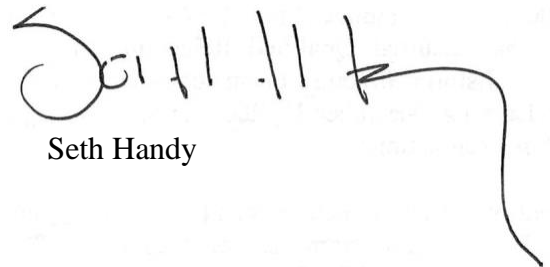
The bill does this by requiring OER to identify priority sites for the development of local renewable energy. It facilitates the development of those sites by anticipating any potential challenges with interconnecting those projects and authorizing a "renewable ready fund," a steady source of funding to overcome identified interconnection obstacles. It moves forward with requests for proposals to develop clean energy where appropriate and practical on such sites.

It also uses its authorization of RI Energy's public interest charter to "encourage" the utility to do the same kind of planning for execution of renewable energy projects on its environmental response fund properties.

We cannot reach our aggressive new energy and climate mandates without acting fast on "low hanging fruit" like using smart state (and state oversight) properties to generate homegrown clean energy. It is so gratifying to see RI leading by example with this bill. Brilliant!

Thank you for your great leadership on this and your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth Handy", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Seth Handy