



March 21, 2024

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon Jr.
Chair, House Committee on Corporations
Rhode Island General Assembly
Providence, RI 02903

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re: Advanced Energy United support for House Bill 7811 – 2024 Energy Storage Act

Dear Chair Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee,

On behalf of Advanced Energy United, I write in support of House Bill 7811, *The 2024 Energy Storage Act*. This bill is an opportunity for Rhode Island to spur economic development for a segment of the clean energy industry that holds great promise for building a stronger, more resilient grid as we move to a 100% renewable electricity future.

Advanced Energy United ("United") is the only national business association that represents the full range of advanced energy technologies and services, including wind, solar, hydro, electric vehicles, storage technologies, and more. Our member organizations lower consumer costs, create good-paying jobs, and provide clean, cost-effective, and reliable energy.

In Rhode Island and across New England, the electricity system is undergoing a transition to clean energy. Energy storage is a critical resource to facilitate that transition. In recent years, the General Assembly has taken nation-leading steps to make Rhode Island a model for other states: the 2021 Act on Climate instituted enforceable greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction-targets that will make Rhode Island resilient to climate change and grow green energy jobs and the 100% renewable electricity legislation enacted last year charts a path for a decarbonized future. Those landmark acts represent critically important steps that energy storage can complement.

Energy storage is a mature technology that has seen dramatically increased deployment in the past three years. The U.S. Energy Information estimates that installed capacity will rise from 17 GW of batteries in 2023 to 31 GW in 2024, a near doubling.¹ Yet, Rhode Island has not seen significant storage capacity to date.

Now is the time to move towards implementation to deliver on their promise: reaching the targets requires the widespread deployment of clean energy solutions. Energy storage is an

¹ <https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/energy-storage/chart-the-us-grid-battery-fleet-is-about-to-double-again>

essential part of a clean energy system in Rhode Island and across the country, accelerating the phase out of fossil fuel sources in our power system while maintaining reliable power.

Energy storage can reduce strain on the electric grid by charging when power production is abundant, and then discharging that power when demand is high. This also creates opportunities for ratepayer savings because dispatching storage assets can avoid using more expensive (and often, more polluting) energy sources to meet system needs. Moreover, storage can help integrate various distributed energy technologies such as offshore wind, solar projects, and EV chargers.

House Bill 7811 establishes specific goals to deploy 200 MW of energy storage by 2028 and 600 MW by 2033 in Rhode Island. Importantly, the Act directs the Office of Energy Resources to create programs that facilitate energy storage across customer classes to serve residents, businesses, and communities more broadly.

This bill also creates a mechanism for utilities to competitively procure energy storage resources subject to oversight of the public utilities commission. The energy storage procurement proposal in the Act would also provide market predictability and progress towards the storage goals. The Act provides a straightforward and balanced pathway to stimulate the sustainable adoption of battery resources.

Clean and flexible resources such as storage will be needed to meet new and different reliability needs in the future while also meeting decarbonization objectives. Our neighboring states have already adopted strong storage policies. Massachusetts has codified a storage procurement target for 1,000 MWh by 2025 (Act to Advance Clean Energy, Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2018), which builds on the 2015 Energy Storage Initiative created to expand storage development in the Commonwealth. Connecticut similarly has a 1,000 MW goal for 2030 and created targeted storage programs in partnership with CT's Green Bank (Public Act 21-53).

We urge the Committee to advance House Bill 7811 favorably this session, and we stand ready to work with you in ensuring that Rhode Island stimulates investment in storage resources for the benefit of its grid, its ratepayers, and its climate.

Sincerely,



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cc: Senator Alana DiMario
Senator Dawn Euer
Representative Arthur Handy