Representative Solomon, Chair                                    March 21st, 2024
House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives

**Re: Support for H7811 – Energy Storage Act**

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the Committee,

My name is Dave and I am a resident of Bristol, RI. I'm writing in support of this bill because we need to do all that we can to reduce fossil fuel emissions and limit the effects of climate change.

Frankly, climate change keeps me up at night. I'm planning on having kids in the next couple of years, but I'm incredibly worried about the future we are currently on track to leave for them, and I am in turmoil. I'm going to feel a lot more hopeful if the necessary action is taken today.

It is at times like this we need strong leadership from our elected officials to do the right thing. To ensure a future of clean energy and limit the effects of climate change, we need to deploy energy storage at scale, across residential, commercial, and industrial locations. This will reduce peak demand on the electric grid and help facilitate a renewable grid with high penetration of wind and solar. Reducing peak demand will greatly reduce the amount of transmission upgrades required.

Passing this bill will accelerate the adoption of energy storage technology across the state, increasing the supply of batteries and driving down the cost for everyone. I want to install solar and batteries at my house, but I am concerned with the very high cost. Even with the current incentives and tax credits, it is unaffordable for most people.

We cannot be expected to prioritize solving these problems ourselves if they are not also the priority of our government. This bill has to pass, and it cannot be the only one. It has to happen in concert with removing fossil fuels from the electric grid (delivering on the 2033 Renewable Energy Standard) and the transportation sector wherever possible.

I plead the Committee and full General Assembly to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,

*DStevensC*

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