

Testimony of Peter Trafton, Providence RI, in support of H5834, March 20, 2025

Dear Chair Solomon and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations,

I write in strong and enthusiastic support for H5834, by Representative Handy and colleagues – a resolution requesting assessment of electric rates and potential rate reform strategies to remove any obstacles from our reaching the decarbonization goals of the Act on Climate.

Every Rhode Islander is aware of the burdens we face from the high and always mounting costs of electrical energy. As we attempt to transition from fossil fuel energy to clean electric energy for the many needs of buildings and transportation, elevated costs of electricity must be seen as an impediment to our essential transition. Efforts to keep that transition equitable are stymied by the fact that many Rhode Islanders are now expected to pay a huge portion of their income simply to provide for electricity needs.

We must leave no stones unturned in our efforts to reduce electricity costs. Thus H5834 requests a collaborative report by the Public Utilities Commission, the office of energy resources, and the Department of environmental management with stakeholder participation as well outlined in the bill. This meshes well with the 2025 climate action strategy in considering possible roles for electricity rate adjustments. The bill also requests input from Rhode Island energy.

My family and I have lived in Rhode Island for more than 30 years. We are well aware of the many challenges our state and all Rhode Islanders face because of climate change. In support of our future generations, please pass 5834 to assist with our vital transition away from climate- polluting fossil fuels.

Thanks for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PG Trafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Peter Trafton