



## **In support of H5573: Energy Facility Siting Act**

Rhode Island House of Representatives  
Members of the House Corporations Committee  
Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chair

April 1, 2025

Dear Chair Soloman and Committee Members:

The more than 3,500 members of Climate Action Rhode Island (CARI)—a grassroots group promoting the just transition towards renewable, clean energy—strongly support and urge you to pass H5573, the Energy Facility Siting Act. **H5573 is one of CARI's select endorsed bills for the 2025 legislative session.**

The devastation of climate change is both upon us and only beginning. It is the sober conclusions of the world's scientists that unless we quickly change course and reduce our carbon emissions the impact will be both physically devastating and financially ruinous.

The contribution RI can make to mitigating the climate crisis is simple: increase the generation of renewable energy and use this electricity to replace fossil fuels for how we heat our homes and water, how we cook our foods, and how we power out vehicles. Of course, achieving is more complicated, and to do so it is essential to use all the tools at our disposal and to prioritize new, fast, and inexpensive technologies that will help reduce our carbon emissions as well as contain the costs that are passed on to consumers, your constituents.

Simply put this bill aims to counter a problem that results from the financial structure of our investor-owned utility system, namely that the utility makes their profit, not from selling energy to customers, as is often assumed, but on a return on their capital investment. Although this has worked well in many situations, it biases their priorities to building new and expensive infrastructure, which often leads to overlooking faster and less expensive solutions. Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETS) and reconductoring, the focus of this bill, are two of these solutions that have been ignored by the utility and are urgently needed to cost-effectively and rapidly increase our transmission capacity both over distance and locally.

Building new electric transmission lines is expensive and often slowed by the right-of-way acquisition and permitting process. We must take advantage of other faster and cheaper options. GETS and Reconductoring allow for increased capacity on our existing transmission lines and is vastly less expensive than new transmission lines. This bill will require the utility and the PUC in conjunction with the OER to conduct independent studies of these options and assess their impact across many factors

including environmental measures, reliability and cost. Furthermore, it allows the PUC to provide a financial incentive as is necessary.

These technologies also have the potential to reduce the cost of transmission which now accounts for 17% of the typical electric bill. As you all know, many Rhode Islanders are struggling with their utility bills, especially this winter. The long-term solution to this problem is the deployment of solar and wind energy, which along with battery storage, is much cheaper than fossil fuel generation, and using the most cost-effective way to optimize our transmission capacity.

Please pass this H5573 now.

Respectively submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey Migneault

Jeff Migneault

Co-President

Climate Action Rhode Island