

April 1, 2025

Representative Joseph J. Solomon
Chair of House Corporations Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: ACT Support for House Bill 5573- Energy Facility Siting Act

Dear Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee,

The Alliance for Climate Transition appreciates the opportunity to submit comments in support of House Bill 5573, "Energy Facility Siting Act." The passage of this bill would ensure that Rhode Island embraces technologies necessary for improving and modernizing the energy grid, in order to prepare the state for the increasing demand while minimizing costs to consumers.

The Alliance for Climate Transition ("ACT") leads the just, equitable, and rapid transition to a clean energy future and a diverse climate economy. ACT is the only organization in the Northeast that covers all of the clean energy market segments, representing the business perspectives of investors and clean energy companies across every stage of development. Our 300+ members include companies based in Rhode Island, doing business, or hoping to make future investments in the state.

Rhode Island and the region are working to modernize the electric grid to support increasing energy demand and decarbonize our economy—all while seeking to reduce ratepayer energy burdens.

The technologies outlined in this bill fall under the umbrella of advanced transmission technologies ("ATTs") and are already in use in many parts of the country. They are well-developed and tested solutions to improving the effectiveness of the electric grid. ATTs are a cost-effective way of improving grid capacity, as they can enhance the already existing infrastructure, preventing unnecessary development of more expensive traditional upgrades.

Just as we need to wring all the efficiency out of energy where we use it, we should require the use and due consideration of the technologies that allow us to get more out of our electric grid.

For example, Grid Enhancing Technologies ("GETs")— which encompass much of the technologies outlined in his bill— allow the grid to be more actively responsive to the external conditions affecting it, thereby allowing the amount of energy going through lines to vary throughout the day. When utilities determine how much energy can travel through power lines,

they make conservative estimates in an effort to ensure that the grid is not overloaded, which could cause power disruptions. However, those estimates are modeled on worst-case scenarios, which happen rarely. Rhode Island can increase grid efficiency by incorporating GETs into the grid, which will allow for real-time control of electricity volume and transmission paths.

The bill also requires the consideration of advanced conductors, which can carry double the electricity load compared to standard conductors—requiring only the wires to be replaced on already existing poles and transmission towers. Without these conductors, an increase in energy demand either requires the expansion of tower corridors and installing larger towers or building completely new transmission lines in addition to existing ones. Both of these options require major investment into land acquisition and infrastructure building, and cost ratepayers exorbitant amounts of money. For this reason, it is often much more cost effective to instead strategically replace transmission lines with advanced conductors.

ACT strongly encourages the committee to support bill H. 5573. The passage of this bill will ensure that the state can properly modernize the grid and improve its capacity to support a growing, electrified economy. By supporting this bill and the utilization of these technologies, the committee can support the effort towards preventing ratepayers from being unnecessarily burdened by the costs of upgrading our energy systems.

On behalf of our members, thank you for your consideration and dedication to forging progress on clean energy and climate issues in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oliwia Krupinska". The script is cursive and fluid.

Oliwia D. Krupinska
Policy and Regulatory Analyst
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