



Representative Joseph Solomon, Chair
House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives

April 1st, 2025

RE: Green Energy Consumers Alliance Supports House Bill 5573

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and our thousands of members across Rhode Island, **I write in support of House Bill 5573**, which would analyze how grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) and other opportunities can enhance the capacity and efficiency of our electric grid, at lower cost.

The Importance of Utilizing Grid-Enhancing Technologies

The New England region is spending billions of dollars on investments into the regional transmissions system to upgrade old or inefficient systems, but these transmission projects have relatively little oversight. The investments approved by the regional grid operator, ISO-New England, can cost ratepayers as utilities earn some of their profit infrastructure projects and therefore have a financial bias towards more expensive infrastructure investments. However, investments in our transmission system are necessary as electricity demand is projected to increase in the coming decades as Rhode Island and other states work to meet their decarbonization goals. Therefore, the need to balance investments in our infrastructure system with costs, especially those that are reflected in rate payer bills, is essential.

This is where GETs come into play, as these hard-and-software technologies can increase the capacity and efficiency of the electric grid quicker than a large-scale infrastructure project can. To encourage cost-effective investments, this bill would, among other things, empower the utilities that come before the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and Energy Facilities Siting Board to consider GETs for siting transmission and planning distribution infrastructure. It would also allow the utilities and PUC to propose a financial incentive for utilizing GETs which can promote their adoption.

Conclusion

To support the growth of our electric grid while making necessary improvements, evaluating and implementing grid-enhancing technologies will ensure growing demand for electricity is managed while controlling transmission costs where possible. Green Energy Consumers Alliance thanks Chair Solomon for introducing this important legislation and urges the Committee and full General Assembly to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,

Tina Munter, RI Policy Advocate
Green Energy Consumers Alliance

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