



In support of H5580: Renewable Energy Standard

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 urge you to reject bill H5580, an significant weakening to the Renewable Energy Standard.

We don't often write to oppose bills as we would rather support the positive changes that can be enacted to help mitigate the climate crisis, but this bill is part of a world view that must be challenged if we are to have any chance of a livable future. As we are also dealing with delusional climate denial at the federal level, we must do all we can at the state level to resist backsliding, not encourage it.

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 original proposed bill that became the 100% RES bill had a goal date of 2030, but to get it over the finish line the sponsors and the environmental community agreed to push it back to 2033. This still is one of the most ambitious goals in the country, as it should be. RI is uniquely able to accomplish this goal given its small size, its supply coming from the regional network of ISO New England, our low per capita energy use, our progress installing solar energy, and the abundance of offshore wind energy available. RI should be proud to have enacted the original 100% RES and be an example to other states.

Let's be clear, to backtrack on this commitment would betray our commitment to provide our children and future generations with a livable world. That future can be a positive improvement on the world we live in today, or it can be a hellscape. The choice is ours.

Please do not let this odious bill see the light of day.

Respectively submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey Migneault

Jeff Migneault
Co-President
Climate Action Rhode Island