

Testimony in support of H5816: Affordable Clean Energy Security Act
Corinna-Barbara Francis RI 02906
Date of Hearing: April 1, 2025

To Chair Solomon and the honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee:

I strongly support H5816: Affordable Clean Energy Security Act, and urge you to bring this bill to a vote this session.

H5816 outlines a critical step in helping us meet our energy and climate goals while also helping to build RI's economy of the future by setting a minimum target of reaching 1200 MW of offshore wind by 2029.

In order to prevent further climate disasters which are costing us collectively and individually, we need to promote all possible clean energy sources. This bill will help us do that with wind energy

Increasing the portion of our electricity that comes from offshore wind is critical for reaching the greenhouse gas emissions reductions mandated by the RI Act on Climate and the goal of our Renewable Energy Standard of 100% renewable electricity by 2033. We won't get to 100% renewable electricity by that date if we do not. The facts show we cannot accomplish this without increasing all sources of clean energy. Offshore wind perfectly complements solar, offering energy at night and in fall and winter, when solar is less effective.

RI currently has 725 MW either in operation or under contract, so the goal set out in H5816 of reaching 1200 of offshore wind by 2029 MW is realistic.

Increasing RI access to OSW will have a wide range of other benefits as well, including reducing air and other types of pollution and bringing improved health for Rhode Island's residents, growing RI's economy and increasing the number of good-paying local jobs, strengthening our energy independence and improving grid reliability, helping to provide energy in the winter with reliable, renewable electricity.

We need action and less talk

Without further offshore wind procurement, Rhode Island risks missing its climate goals, high power prices during the winter, challenges to grid reliability and increasing risks to marine life from rising sea temperatures coming from continued fossil fuel use.

Please bring the bill to a vote this session.

Sincerely,
Corinna-Barbara Francis