



## **In support of H5816: Affordable Clean Energy Security Act**

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

April 1, 2025

Dear Chair Solomon and Committee Members:

The Climate Crisis is among the most urgent and dangerous crises facing our world, our country, and our state. We have in our power the means to avert the worst effects of this crisis, but if we do not do so now, our children and future generations will suffer dire consequences.

The only credible path to getting Rhode Island rapidly off fossil fuels relies on three main strategies: electrifying end-uses like transportation and heating, using energy more efficiently including through expanding alternatives to automobiles for personal transportation, and deploying renewable energy. The first two strategies are essential, but without deploying renewable energy, the other strategies will be incomplete and result in far fewer gains.

Rhode Island has made remarkable progress in deploying solar, but solar only provides electricity during the day, and produces more in the spring and summer. In the last few months, we have seen the results of our dependence on fossil fuels in the form of high and unpredictable winter power prices driven by higher gas prices.

Offshore wind generates more power in the fall, winter, and evenings, and has particularly high output at the coldest times of the year. As such it is not only a perfect complement to solar power and an indispensable part of our long-term strategy, but it also meets the near-term needs of our energy system and creates a hedge against our region's current dependence on natural gas.

We have several offshore wind projects with federal permits that are planned to supply the electricity grid in southern New England, but they need power contracts to proceed. Massachusetts did its share to contract with offshore wind projects, but Rhode Island has fallen behind. By setting a target for offshore wind procurement, H5816 will address that deficiency and give Rhode Island enough offshore wind to meet roughly half of our 2033 power needs.

Expanded offshore wind procurement will make it possible for us to achieve the goals of the Act on Climate and 100% Renewable Energy legislation, and also to tangibly reduce electricity sector emissions while giving the state a means to meet future electricity demand when the sun is not shining.

There are many other reasons to support this H5816, including the creation of more good jobs and economic development in the state's burgeoning offshore wind sector. In fact, there are too many to articulate in this brief document, but we are always happy to discuss the benefits further. For us at Climate Action Rhode Island, the need of securing a safe world for future generations will always come first.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey Migneault

Jeff Migneault  
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Climate Action Rhode Island