

Testimony in support of H5816: Affordable Clean Energy Security Act

Rhys Johnstone, Westerly, RI 02891

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To Chair Solomon and the Members of the House Corporations Committee,

My name is Rhys Johnstone and I am a resident of Westerly, RI 02891. I am writing to express my **strong support of H-5816**.

The Rhode Island Act on Climate requires a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and with the goal of achieving 100% renewable electricity by 2033 through our Renewable Energy Standard, it's crucial that our state takes action now to meet these targets. In order to achieve this goal, we will need 1,200 MW of offshore wind by 2029. With 725 MW of wind power already operational or under contract, the goal set by H-5816 is within reach.

Creating more offshore wind farms complements the 725 MW of solar the state already has. Winds are strongest in the evening and through the night, times when solar is not effective. Moreover, the winter months bring stronger winds for offshore wind while solar power becomes less efficient as the hours of daylight decrease.

Building more offshore wind will strengthen our energy independence, improve grid reliability, and help stabilize power prices for Rhode Islanders during the winter.

Not only will this bill help accomplish the goals set in the Rhode Island Act on Climate; it will also benefit our local economy. The planning and construction will provide jobs to Rhode Islanders and stimulate our economy.

If we do not continue expanding our offshore wind capabilities, Rhode Island could miss its greenhouse gas reduction goals, face issues in grid reliability, and have high electrical prices in the winter.

H5816 will help Rhode Island meet its climate, energy, and economic goals while strengthening our energy independence for the future.

I hope the House Corporations Committee will advance H-5816.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rhys Johnstone
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