



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

### DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS

Administration

89 Jefferson Boulevard

Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

(401) 941-4500

(401) 941-9207 - Fax

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chairman – House Committee on Corporations  
State House  
Providence, R.I. 02903

### Re: **H 5820 – Public Utilities and Carriers – Renewable Energy Standard**

Dear Chairman Solomon:

The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments in response to House Bill No. 5820, which includes amendments aimed at electric ratepayer cost reduction through a pause in the annual ramp-ups of the renewable energy standard. The Division appreciates further emphasis on ratepayer affordability within the ongoing dialogue on how to best achieve State clean energy goals in a thoughtful, measured fashion. This dialogue is especially timely in light of recent ratepayer impacts—which were clearly communicated during compelling public testimony before the Public Utilities Commission on March 10<sup>1</sup>.

A significant pause in the renewable energy standard could reduce renewable energy certificate (REC) prices but increase the above market costs of the Long Term Contracting and Renewable Energy Growth programs. Under these programs the purchase price from the renewable facility is fixed. The cost of the purchase from the facilities is then offset by energy and Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) sales. As a result, depressed REC prices could serve to increase the above market costs shifting at least some of the ratepayer liability to another portion of the bill.

As an alternative, the Division would be willing to work with stakeholders to discuss possible amendments to the renewable energy standard. Extending the current renewable energy standard timetable to 2043 with a corresponding adjustment in the percentage targets would provide

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<sup>1</sup> Links to video recordings of March 10 Commission public hearing on gas and electric rates: [VOD Part 1](#) and [VOD Part 2](#)

gradualism and potentially insulate consumers from REC market price swings. Such an extension would also maintain the drive for renewable energy deployment and this important factor in attaining our state's decarbonization goals. Additionally, a brief pause of possibly one year to 2026 may afford additional cost protection given that Revolution Wind's operational date has been pushed back to that year.

The Division believes that we can, and will, attain our environmental goals, but along the way we need to remain flexible as to how we support renewable energy deployment with the goal of supporting electric utility service affordability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda George". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" and last name "George" clearly distinguishable.

Linda George, Esq.

Administrator, RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers

CC: The Honorable Representative Charlene Lima  
The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel