

Testimony in support of H8032: Sales and Use Tax

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: May 14, 2024

To Chair Abney and the honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I support the bill because it adds incentives for more renewable energy technologies, which we need in order to reach the greenhouse gas emissions mandates of the Act on Climate.

I also recommend to maximize the impact of the tax exemption and consider to include *all* battery energy storage systems, regardless of their supplier, as long as they are used to store electricity with the purpose of smoothening electricity load peaks and troughs in the electric grid by storing electricity during times of over-generation and low demand, and releasing the stored electricity into the grid, or using it locally when there is high demand.

This will reduce reliance on "Peak" power plants and avoid some of their greenhouse gas emissions, be a contribution to future local grids and to grid resilience, and will reduce the reliance on long range electricity transmission.

It also seems arbitrary to incentivize only commercial solar thermal collectors and hot water and space heating systems. We can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, regardless of commercial or domestic use of these systems, so either should have the same tax exemptions.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2024.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Fogarty for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

May 13, 2024

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