



May 27, 2026

Dear Speaker Blazejewski,

I hope that this note finds you well. I'm writing as the Vice Chair of the RI Energy Efficiency Council (EEC) to ask you to please **not** approve the proposed caps to the energy efficiency program as included in the Governor's budget.

This past fall, you and former-Speaker Shekarchi co-signed a letter to the EEC asking us to consider the long-term impacts on residents on cuts the utility proposed to the 2026 energy efficiency program. Over 50 of your General Assembly colleagues signed a similar letter. The EEC voted *against* these cuts and proposed our own, larger budget to the Public Utilities Commission. You also submitted a co-signed letter to Chairman Gerwatowski with the same request – though the PUC did approve cuts to the programs above what the EEC recommended.

The Governor's proposed cuts are *even more drastic* than the ones you (and we) previously opposed. The governor's budget proposed a cap of \$75 million for these programs. The Least Cost Procurement Statute from which these programs are designed already includes a test for how large the programs should be – they allow for energy efficiency investments "less than the cost of supply". They are required by statute to be cost-effective and less than procuring additional energy supply.

With increased concerns about energy affordability, energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective tools to help residents and businesses manage their bills. Investments made now in weatherization, efficient lighting, and other improvements will help our residents for years into the future. Energy efficiency continues to be our most cost-effective tool for addressing climate change in the built environment. We are seeing disinvestment in climate and clean energy programs at the federal level - affecting not only our climate goals, but also our local jobs and industries. We need to continue to pursue local cost-effective strategies to meet these goals.

I'm confident that the EEC would welcome the opportunity to be a partner with you and other members of the General Assembly in evaluating our energy future and working to update our overall energy plan for the State. I believe the best course of action this year is to eliminate this section of the budget and have more thoughtful review of our energy programs in future years.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter Gill Case", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Gill Case

Vice Chair of the EEC