



VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Rhode Island Energy
c/o Toby Ast and Brett Feldman

July 7, 2025

re: Rhode Island Energy's 2026 Energy Efficiency Planning Update

Dear Rhode Island Energy:

Advanced Energy United ("United") submits these comments in response to Rhode Island Energy's ("RIE") 2026 Planning Update from June 26, 2025.

United is a national association of businesses that works to accelerate the move to 100% clean energy and electrified transportation in the U.S. The term advanced energy encompasses a broad range of products and services that constitute the best available technologies for meeting our energy needs today and tomorrow. These include electric vehicles, energy efficiency, demand response, energy storage, solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, heat pumps (ground-sourced and air-sourced), and smart grid technologies. United represents more than 100 companies in the \$374 billion U.S. advanced energy industry, which employs 4.1 million U.S. workers and over 16,700 in Rhode Island.

With energy affordability as a major concern across the country, now is not the time to cut programs that help customers reduce their utility bills. Energy efficiency is a least-cost resource that plays a crucial role in reducing long-term system costs by lowering overall electricity demand. It provides many benefits to ratepayers, including lower electricity bills and increasing affordability. It's for these reasons that United opposes Rhode Island Energy's ("RIEs") proposal to scale back its investment in energy efficiency ("EE") resources.

United is concerned by the minimal reductions in the administration budget, given the significant reduction in EE savings and the overall program budget. Electric administrative costs decreased slightly by only 0.4% and gas went down by only 1%. We recommend looking at budgets that may not be directly tied to energy savings to reduce overall portfolio costs without reducing program budgets and consequently, energy savings potential.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Shama Phillips

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