

# Who's Opposing Climate Action In the RI Legislature?

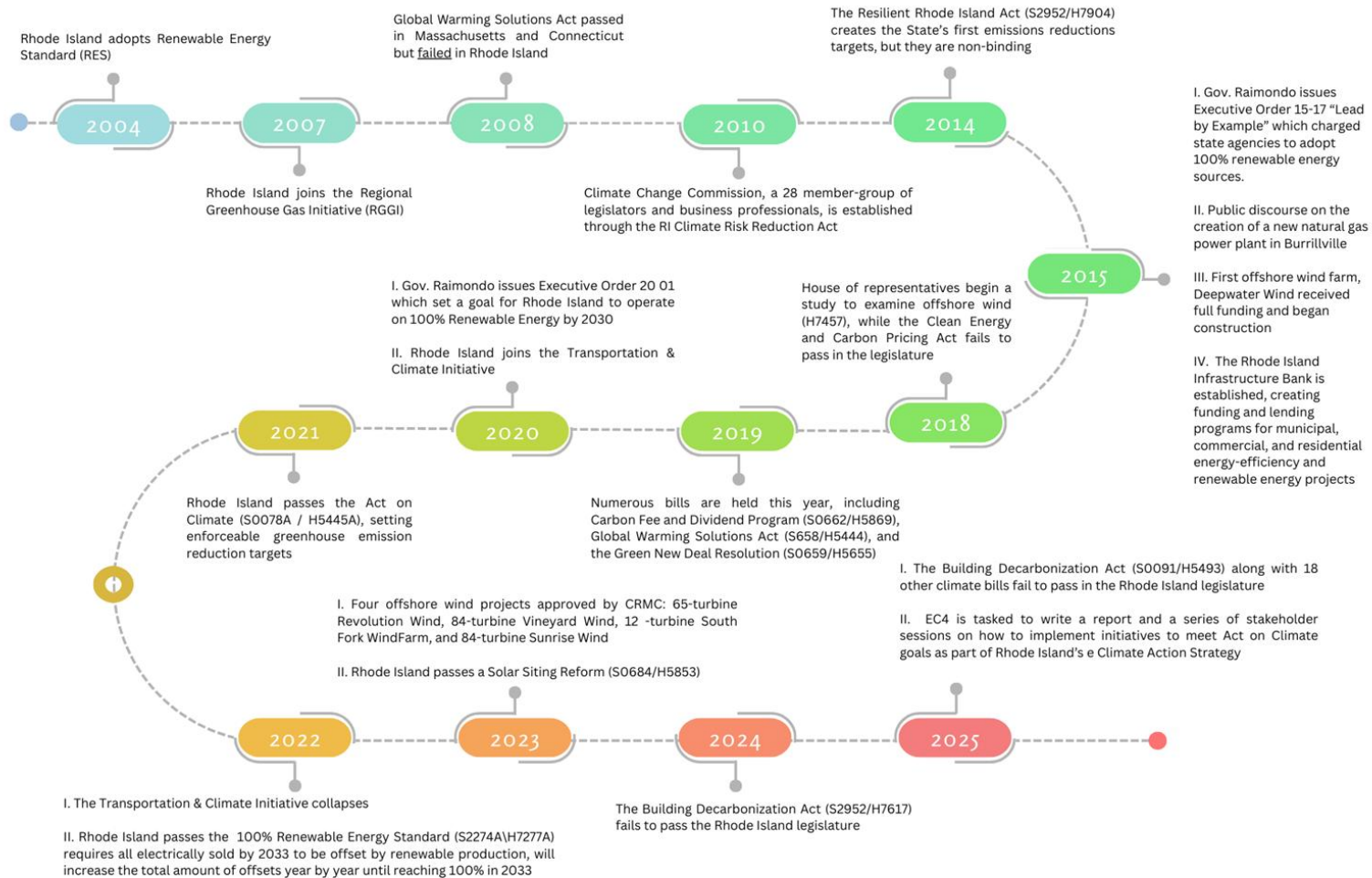


**The Climate + Development Lab**  
Brown University, December 2025

J. Timmons Roberts, Trevor Culhane, August DeVore, Fama Seck  
Chloe Daniel, Evan Tao, Reina Jo

December 2025





# POLITICAL DYNAMICS OF RI

## Smallest state

- 1 million people
- Economy going through an industrial transition
- Revenues are limited leading to hiring freezes, low support staff, and low salaries for legislators
- Short legislative sessions
- Reliant on outside information

## Legislative

- Extremely hierarchical: nearly all power is in the hands of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate
- “Culture of conformity” for fear of being “sent to Siberia”

## Political

- Nominally a “Deep Blue” state, but split between “pro-business” and a “progressive” wing.
- Legislators and NGOs who don’t support leadership find themselves marginalized politically, without power.

# DATA COLLECTION



The Rhode Island  
Department of State

April 2025  
Entity Activities Report

Filed Date: May 12, 2025 11:01 AM

## Contact Information

Name: RHODE ISLAND ENERGY Phone: 1 (781) 907-3443  
Email: donna@murphyandfay.com Address: 280 Melrose St  
Providence, RI  
02907

## Reported Compensation

Date	Type	Value	Paid To
Apr 01, 2025	Fee	\$3,000.00	NICHOLAS UCCI
Apr 01, 2025	Fee	\$5,000.00	PATTI DOYLE
Apr 15, 2025	Fee	\$5,000.00	DOME CONSULTANTS, LLC

## Reported Bills

H5018

H5018 Oppose NICHOLAS S. UCCI on behalf of RHODE ISLAND ENERGY

H5068

H5068 Oppose NICHOLAS S. UCCI on behalf of RHODE ISLAND ENERGY



1800 Mineral Spring Ave  
Suite 271  
North Providence, RI 02904  
877-262-7662  
NFIB.com

Testimony of

Christopher Carlozzi, State Director, National Federation of Independent Business  
In Opposition to House Bill No. 5493  
An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Building Decarbonization Act of 2025  
Before the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
March 12, 2025

Chairman Bennett and Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

My name is Christopher Carlozzi. I am the Rhode Island Director of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB is the nation's and Rhode Island's largest small business advocacy group. In Rhode Island, NFIB represents hundreds of small and independent business owners involved in all types of industry, including manufacturing, retail, wholesale, service, and agriculture. The average NFIB member has five employees and annual gross revenues of about \$450,000. In short, NFIB represents the small Main Street business owners from across the state. On behalf of those small and independent business employers in Rhode Island, I urge you to oppose House Bill No. 5493 that adds new restrictions for residential and commercial building construction and enacts a building energy usage report requirement.

This bill will have a negative impact on both commercial and residential construction, as well as small business operations. Rhode Island already faces a housing shortage, and this new proposal demanding buildings must be electric-ready will only increase the scarcity of affordable housing. House Bill No. 5493

Organization

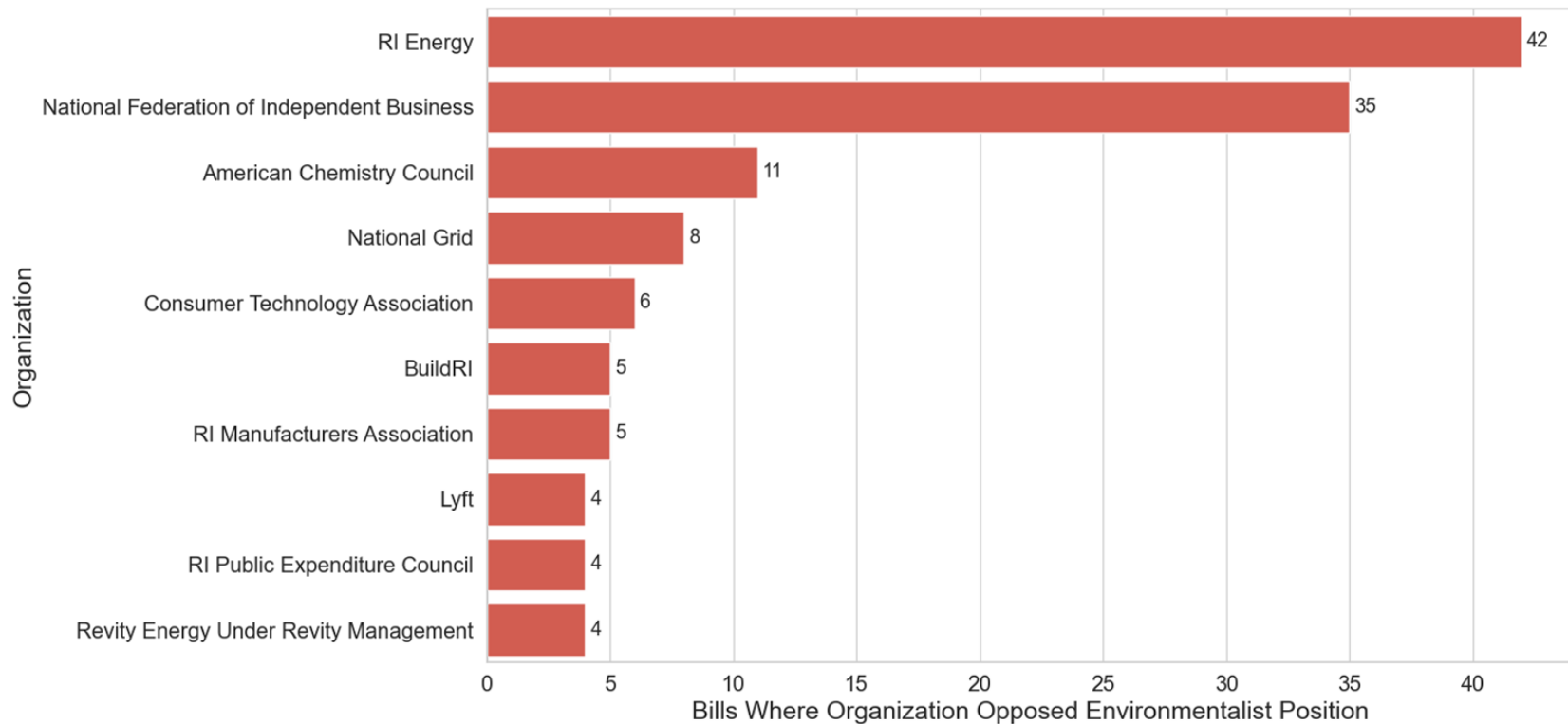
Bill

Position

Lobbying  
Spending

# LOBBYING AGAINST CLIMATE BILLS

Top Lobbying Opponents of Environmentalist Priorities (2018-2025)



# LOBBYING SPENDING BY MOST ACTIVE GROUPS (2018-2025)

## Lobbyist Compensation by Most Active Groups (2018-2025)

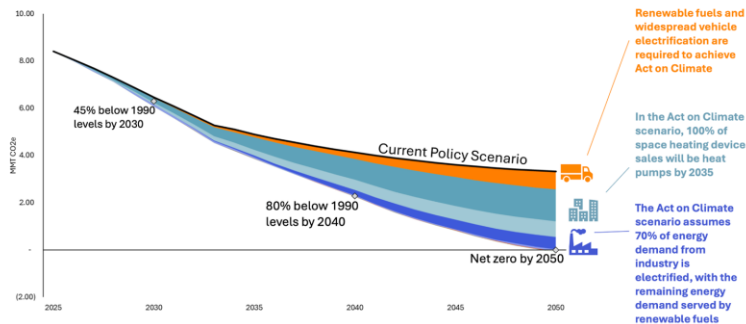
ORGANIZATION	# OF BILLS WHERE GROUP SUPPORTED ENVIRONMENTALISTS	TOTAL LOBBYIST COMPENSATION
Conservation Law Foundation	149	\$81,662
Acadia Center	98	\$41,485
Nature Conservancy	92	\$22,950
Green Energy Consumers Alliance	88	\$17,404
Alliance for Climate Transition	55	\$0
Audubon Society of RI	50	\$42,572
RI Environmental Education Association	43	\$9,319
Citizens Climate Lobby RI	26	\$0
League of Women Voters RI	24	\$0
Save the Bay	23	\$58,546

ORGANIZATION	# OF BILLS WHERE GROUP OPPOSED ENVIRONMENTALISTS	TOTAL LOBBYIST COMPENSATION
RI Energy	42	\$466,500
National Federation of Independent Business	35	\$67,449
American Chemistry Council	12	\$352,857
National Grid	8	\$613,667
Consumer Technology Association	6	\$74,200
RI Manufacturers Association	5	\$51,650
BuildRI	5	\$118,515
Lyft	4	\$190,581
RI Public Expenditure Council	4	\$27,398
Revy Energy Under Revity Management	4	\$3,500

- Total lobbyist compensation spending by top 10 groups supporting ECRI/CARI on climate and energy: \$273,938
- Total lobbyist compensation spending by top 10 groups opposing ECRI/CARI on climate and energy: \$1,966,317

# ANTICIPATING RESISTANCE TO AMBITIOUS STATE CLIMATE POLICY

**To reach long-term Act on Climate targets, significant additional action will be needed in transportation, buildings, and industry**



**Audience:**

**Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4)**

Science and Technology Advisory Board (STAB)

Dunsky Energy + Climate

**Climate Action Strategy, due Dec 31, 2025**

Buildings  
Heating  
Electric Vehicles  
Public transit

**Our focus:**

RI's Strategies  
Opposition Groups  
Opposition Claims/tactics  
Counter-tactics

# CONCLUSION: KEY FINDINGS

1. Rhode Island Energy, owned by Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL), spent the most on lobbying (in the years it has been active) and was the most active opponent of environmental groups on climate and energy bills in our study period.
2. Business coalitions and the RI Public Utilities Commission (PUC) are frequent opponents of climate policies.
3. Rhode Island's 2025 Climate Action Strategy proposes interventions that have been introduced in past legislative sessions--and faced resistance.
4. Rhode Island has key state-level constraints that have posed barriers to climate action.
5. Implementation is particularly challenging.
6. Labor-environmental coalitions have advanced state climate policy.

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