



## ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL OF RHODE ISLAND

October 31, 2011

Honorable Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor  
State House, Room 224  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Environment Council of Rhode Island Nomination to Renewable  
Energy Board Created Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 39-26.2**

Dear Governor Chafee:

On behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI), I am writing to advise you that at its July 2011 meeting, the ECRI Board of Directors unanimously voted to recommend that you nominate Mr. Jerry Elmer to the newly created renewable energy board.

ECRI is a coalition of over 60 Rhode Island environmental organizations. ECRI's mission is to serve as an effective and united voice for developing and advocating policies and laws that protect and enhance the environment.

In June of this year, you signed into law Chapter 26.2 of Title 39 of Rhode Island General Laws, entitled "Distributed Generation Standard Contracts." As you know, this new DG Statute is designed to facilitate the development of local, small-scale renewable energy projects in Rhode Island. Section 9 of the DG Statute provides for creation of a new board that will set ceiling prices for various classes of small renewable energy projects. The DG Statute specifies that one seat of this 10-member board is reserved for an environmental advocate with knowledge of environmental issues pertaining to energy.

ECRI respectfully recommends that you nominate Jerry Elmer for this seat. ECRI believes that Mr. Elmer would be an excellent member of this Board.

Mr. Elmer has considerable experience and knowledge of environmental issues pertaining to renewable energy development. Along with Dr. Kenneth Payne of the Office of Energy Resources, and the Senate and House leadership, Mr. Elmer was a principal author of the DG Statute that created this board. As a staff attorney in Conservation Law Foundations' Rhode Island office, Mr. Elmer has also worked cooperatively with the General Assembly leadership and the Governor's office to author other renewable energy statutes in Rhode Island, including Chapter 26.1 of Title 39, the

Long-Term Contracting bill (enacted in 2009). Mr. Elmer regularly represents CLF in renewable energy proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission. He is a graduate of Rhode Island College (summa cum laude) and Harvard Law School (cum laude). He has practiced law in Rhode Island for over 20 years, and is a member of both the state and federal bars in Rhode Island.

Contact information for Jerry Elmer is below. Please feel free to contact me at [tjedele@clf.org](mailto:tjedele@clf.org) or (401) 351-1102, ext. 2011 if you have any questions.

On behalf of ECRI, we look forward to the implementation the Distributed Generation Standard Contracts Law, which will allow Rhode Island to meet its renewable energy goals and improving green initiatives throughout the State.

Very truly yours,



Tricia K. Jedele, President  
Environment Council of Rhode Island

cc.: Honorable M. Teresa Paiva Weed, Senate President  
Kenneth Payne, Director, Office of Energy Resources



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