

HB-7017
PUC



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Public Utilities Commission

89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888
(401) 941-4500

Chairman Ronald T. Gerwatowski
Commissioner Abigail Anthony
Commissioner John C. Revens, Jr.

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chair, House Corporations Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill 7017 – Winter Utility Moratorium

Dear Chair Solomon:

I am submitting the following comments on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on House Bill 7017 directing the PUC to change the utility termination moratorium period in its Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas, and Water Utility Service. The PUC takes no position on this policy decision but because state law supersedes agency regulations and therefore, to avoid the cumbersome nature of the rulemaking process, the PUC recommends the General Assembly simply define a utility termination moratorium period in law.

To provide some context, the following are the utility moratorium periods for the New England states:

Maine – November 15 through April 15
Vermont – November 1 through March 31
New Hampshire – November 15 through March 31
Massachusetts – November 15 through March 15
Connecticut – November 1 through May 1

The PUC notes that under its current rules, the PUC has either extended or allowed National Grid to voluntarily extend the moratorium from April 15 to May 1 when requested.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 401-780-2147 or cynthia.wilsonfrias@puc.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia G. Wilson-Frias".

Cynthia G. Wilson-Frias
Chief of Legal Services

cc: Committee Members
Representative Morales