



 WORKING FAMILIES POWER 

Representative Joseph Solomon, Chair
House Committee on Corporations

April 2, 2022

Support for H-7017 An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Utility termination moratorium period

Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee,

The Rhode Island Working Families Power writes in strong support of H-7017, Representative Morales' bills to extend the annual gas and electricity utility shutoff moratorium to May 1.

The Working Families Party advocates for policies that allow working-class people to live with dignity and meet their basic needs. Enacting laws which recognize that heat and electricity are fundamental requirements for people to take care of their families, keep jobs, and stay alive falls squarely within that charge.

Shutting off utilities can be devastating for people and add another difficulty for residents trying to get their lives in order. Extending the utility shut-off moratorium to May 1 annually is one way to recognize this through policy. Electricity and heat usage can vary widely for most people depending on the weather, and a bill that comes in unexpectedly high one month can scramble finances. Heat and electricity needs may become more unpredictable as a result of the changing weather patterns brought on by climate change. By passing this bill, we can help respond to these changing demands.

Respectfully submitted,

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Working Families Power