

March 30, 2024

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chairman, House Corporations Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

**RE: H-7017 – Relating to Public Utilities & Carriers – Utility Termination Moratorium Period**

Dear Chairman Solomon:

On behalf of Rhode Island Energy, I write to express concern regarding H-7017, which would mandate a utility termination moratorium period of November 1 to May 1 each year. This would further extend Rhode Island’s moratorium period – already one of the longest in the nation.<sup>1</sup>

Currently, authority to adopt rules and regulations governing utility terminations rests with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). This bill would affect the important flexibility afforded to state regulators today, who must balance the appropriate duration and applicability of the utility termination moratorium period with many other factors that can evolve over time, including customer needs, economic conditions, *and the protection of all ratepayers from added costs associated with uncollected debt.*

Rhode Island Energy appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation and thanks the Committee for its continued leadership.

Respectfully,



Nicholas S. Ucci  
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee  
Representative David Morales, Lead Sponsor

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<sup>1</sup> According to data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) LIHEAP Clearinghouse. See: <https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/Disconnect/SeasonalDisconnect.htm>.