



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

### DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS

Administration  
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April 2, 2024

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chairman – House Committee Corporations  
State House  
Providence, R.I. 02903

Re: **House Bill 7086** – An Act Relating to Agriculture and Forestry- Tree Wardens

Dear Chairman Solomon:

The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers is not taking a position on H-7086, though it should be noted we do welcome Rhode Island Energy's willingness to initiate this discussion about ways to improve vegetation management, and with it, overall electric system reliability.

Vegetation management is a significant component in the annually developed electric Infrastructure, Safety and Reliability (ISR) program. As a regulatory agency that actively engages with the utility about the efficacy of current programming and recommendations for future ISR needs (which are ultimately reviewed by the Public Utilities Commission), we feel it would not be prudent to endorse any legislative proposal that may be interpreted to direct future ISR programming and expenditures. That said, the Division will certainly be capable of fulfilling its additional role in vegetation management as envisioned by his legislation.

In respect to issues related to local governance, we anticipate continued input from municipalities, property owners and other stakeholders on this issue, and will defer to these entities as this discussion proceeds.

Sincerely,

Linda George, Esq.

Administrator, RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers

CC: The Honorable Speaker Pro Tempore Brian Patrick Kennedy  
The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel, Speaker of the House