



# RIEMA

RHODE ISLAND  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Daniel J. McKee, **Governor**  
Marc R. Pappas, **Director**

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chair  
House Corporations Committee  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 2024 – H - 7086, An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers– Vegetation Management for Electric System Reliability

Dear Chair Solomon:

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency is responsible for carrying out the program for disaster preparedness in the state and includes mitigating threats to life and property. Severe weather events such as ice storms, hurricanes, and blizzards uproot trees and break tree limbs that strike and disable electric power lines and cause power outages, and individuals dependent upon electric power for medical equipment, heating, cooling, cooking and illumination face threats to life safety. Prolonged power outages can also threaten property if water pipes freeze and break, or if alternate hearing sources are used in an unsafe manner.

2024 – H - 7086, An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers– Vegetation Management for Electric System Reliability, requires electric distribution companies to adhere to vegetation management specifications and practice plans approved by the division of public utilities and carriers. This program will facilitate the removal of dead and decaying vegetation that is most susceptible. This is a proactive approach designed to reduce power outages and power restoration times and protect life and property. For these reasons, the Emergency Management Agency supports this legislation.

Respectfully,

Marc R. Pappas  
Director

cc: Members of the House Corporations Committee  
Rep. Kennedy  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel, Speaker of the House