



March 17, 2025

Testimony in Support of H 5018: Utility Profit Margin Cap at 4%

Chair Solomon, Honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee,

SEIU 1199NE represents approximately 5,000 frontline workers across Rhode Island, including hospital workers, nursing home workers, family child care providers, and other service sector workers who provide essential care to our most vulnerable residents. We submit this testimony in strong support of H 5018, introduced by Representative Cotter, which would cap the profit margins of electric and gas distribution companies at 4%, helping to reduce utility costs for working families.

Utility costs are a significant burden on our members, many of whom live paycheck to paycheck. Rising energy bills force them to make difficult choices between essential expenses like housing, food, and healthcare. By limiting profit margins, H 5018 will put money back into the pockets of our members, improving their quality of life.

This bill also protects vulnerable populations, including low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities, by reducing fixed customer charges and transitioning to more equitable energy pricing. Our members see the impact of high utility costs on these individuals every day, and this reform is crucial to prevent further hardship.

H 5018 promotes accountability by requiring utility companies to invest in safety, reliability, and energy efficiency instead of prioritizing shareholder profits. This will lead to more stable utility services and long-term cost reductions for consumers.

We urge the committee to support H 5018 and help ensure affordable, reliable utilities for all Rhode Islanders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alex Moore
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