

Testimony of Peter Trafton, Providence RI, in support of H5245, March 20, 2025

Dear Chair Solomon and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations,

I write in strong and enthusiastic support FOR H 5245, by Representative Slater and colleagues.

The burden of paying Rhode Island's electricity and gas utility bills is intolerably high for many Rhode Islanders – more than their earnings can cover for the winter months at least.

The impact of these utility costs is overbearing, affecting health and ability to participate effectively in family and community activities.

Percentage income payment plans work effectively in other states. They cost less, typically, than the actual costs of utility disconnections. Such a plan has worked here in Rhode Island in the past on a trial basis.

It is time to pass PIPP in Rhode Island and support our lower income citizens. I urge you to do so with H5245 as promptly as you can.

Thanks for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PG Trafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Peter Trafton