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## In support of 2025–H 5245: Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP)

Utilities are essential — especially now, with rising living costs and energy prices hitting low-income households the hardest. **In Rhode Island’s utility earnings have surged 450% over 20 years, nearly 8% per year!**<sup>1</sup> Ratepayers struggle to keep up and homelessness explodes.

A broader point relevant to today’s hearing: The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), much like Andrew Mellon’s Treasury before the Great Depression, prioritizes corporate profits over public well-being. We’ve seen this before: reckless policies, including the current tariffs imposed by President Trump, run the risk of destabilizing the economy.

**If history repeats, deflation will make fixed profit caps meaningless, whether set at 5.5% as in H 5106 or 4% as in H 5018.**

The Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP H 5245) provides real affordability by tying utility payments to income. The plan protects families — whether the economy inflates, deflates, booms, or busts.

PIPP is long overdue.

Respectfully submitted,



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<sup>1</sup><https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/RIEUTI>