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## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

### Public Utilities Commission

Chairman Ronald T. Gerwatowski  
Commissioner Abigail Anthony

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chair, House Corporations Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill 5814 – Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Public Utilities Commission - Comprehensive Study

Dear Chair Solomon:

I am submitting the following comments on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on House Bill 5814 which requires the PUC and Division of Public Utilities and Carriers to produce a joint comprehensive study report for the general assembly by April 30, 2026.

Understanding the drivers behind utility rates is important to understanding how cost controls may be implemented. However, the PUC respectfully suggests that it would be more efficient for the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) to undertake this project. Additionally, if the Division identifies cost control opportunities during the study, but before the report is issued, the Division can raise them for PUC consideration immediately. From a due process perspective, this would be better than the PUC (decision-maker) and Division (party) discussing such proposals prior to consideration by the PUC. Therefore, we respectfully recommend striking the public utilities commission from the bill.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 401-780-2147 or [cynthia.wilsonfrias@puc.ri.gov](mailto:cynthia.wilsonfrias@puc.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia G. Wilson-Frias".

Cynthia G. Wilson-Frias  
Chief of Legal Services

cc: Representative Lima