

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman, House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

RE: H-5814 – Relating to Public Utilities & Carriers – Comprehensive Study

Dear Chairman Solomon:

On behalf of Rhode Island Energy, I write in **support** of H-5814, which directs the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), in conjunction with the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (DPUC), to produce a comprehensive study on ways to lower rates, review all energy programs funded through utility bills, and identify best practices in other jurisdictions. The bill also provides for a recommendation that any legislation affecting energy costs be supported by a fiscal note that details potential impacts on customers.

Rhode Island Energy provides essential energy services to more than 770,000 customers across the state through the delivery of electricity and natural gas. Our team of 1,400 union and non-union employees is dedicated to helping Rhode Island customers and communities thrive, while supporting the transition to a cleaner energy future in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner.

Rhode Island Energy is required by law to collect funds through utility bills that support a variety of clean energy programs and initiatives. Some of these laws were passed many years ago and opportunities exist to thoughtfully revisit those policies today to account for evolving market conditions and technologies; support new investments vital to energy system safety, reliability, resilience, and future decarbonization; and foster positive energy, economic, and environmental outcomes for the state at lower costs to customers. Several pieces of legislation introduced this session begin to establish that very important dialogue. These proposals should be thoroughly vetted by policymakers, state regulators, and other stakeholders with a goal of optimizing cost savings and efficiencies for utility customers, while still advancing Rhode Island's important climate goals. A comprehensive study by state regulators, such as the one proposed in this bill, would inform such efforts and Rhode Island Energy stands ready to support.

Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,



Nicholas S. Ucci
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee
The Honorable Charlene Lima, Rhode Island House of Representatives