

March 20, 2025

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

**RE: H-5821 – Relating to Public Utilities & Carriers – Regulatory Powers of Administration**

Dear Chairman Solomon:

On behalf of Rhode Island Energy, I write in **opposition** to H-5821 which would amend the law governing review and approval of transactions between utilities. **If advanced, this bill would effectively prevent a fair and timely review of transactions proposed between utilities.**

Rhode Island Energy provides essential energy services to more than 770,000 customers across the Ocean 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.

The proposed legislation would re-define “public interest” as a catch-all of items that would, effectively, make it impossible to have a utility transaction approved in Rhode Island. In addition, the blanket authorization of allowing *any* individual, business, or group to intervene to advocate on behalf of *any* conceivable public interest would, at a minimum, make any proceeding entirely unwieldy. At worst, this bill would result in giving *any* opponent effective veto power over a proposed utility transaction.

Rhode Island Energy appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation and respectfully requests that the Committee reject H-5821 in its entirety.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



Nicholas S. Ucci  
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee  
The Honorable Arthur Handy, House of Representatives