



State of Rhode Island

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID MORALES, *District 7*
Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
Committee on Innovation, Internet and Technology
Member, RI Black and Latino Caucus

September 13, 2023

Chairman Ronald T. Gerwatowski
Commissioner John C. Revens, Jr.
Commissioner Abigail Anthony
Administrator Linda D. George

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Public Utilities Commission:

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to Rhode Island Energy's proposed rate hikes for electricity services. If approved by this Commission, whose purpose is to look out for the interest of the general public, then, starting in October a residential customer's monthly electricity bill will increase by 24% which is estimated to be an additional \$32.

Almost every Fall, people all across Rhode Island are forced to stress about the same issue – the increasing costs of their electricity services. And since taking ownership of our utility system, RI Energy has proposed egregious, record-setting rate hikes which have **hurt** thousands of Rhode Islanders who have now fallen behind on their utility bills and are now experiencing debt (some have even been on the verge of having their services cut).

With RI Energy's growing revenues being worth billions of dollars, it is absurd for RI Energy to pretend these rate hikes are inevitable as it has become relatively clear that the company values their shareholders and profit more than their actual customers who **DEPEND** on utility services. **Because despite RI Energy President, Dave Bonenberger, claiming back in June: "we'll [RI Energy] continue to work with state leaders on other ways to help the most vulnerable" – that has not happened.**

I respectfully ask that the PUC vote against Rhode Island Energy's proposal to increase electricity rates for the Fall, especially when you consider that this year there are significantly less resources and utility relief programs available for people to access.

Sincerely,

State Representative David Morales