



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Public Utilities Commission

89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888
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Chairman Ronald T. Gerwatowski
Commissioner Marion S. Gold
Commissioner Abigail Anthony

March 2, 2021

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

Re: House Bill 5503 – Block Island Utility District/Pascoag Utility District Net Metering

Dear Chair Solomon:

I am submitting the following comments on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on House Bill 5503, which strikes the current statutory limit in order to allow Block Island Utility District and Pascoag Utility District to increase the amount of the net metering allowed on their respective electric distribution systems, subject to PUC approval. This bill allows for the expansion of renewable energy in these districts while providing the flexibility for the smaller utilities to adequately manage their respective electric systems.

Currently, both named utilities are subject to a cap of 3% of their peak load. Block Island Utility District's representatives have informally asked if the PUC could allow a waiver from the statutory cap because it has reached its limit and has had to turn away applications for renewable energy installations from customers. Unfortunately, the PUC does not believe it has the legislative authorization to lift the statutory cap and therefore, this bill is needed to allow the Block Island Utility District to continue expanding renewable energy on Block Island. Pascoag has not advised the PUC that it is nearing the cap, if it does, the changes in this bill would allow them to evaluate their system and process renewable energy applications as necessary.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 401-780-2147 or 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: Committee Members
Representative Filippi