

HB-7286
PUC



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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Public Utilities Commission

Chairman Ronald T. Gerwatowski
Commissioner Abigail Anthony
Commissioner John C. Revens, Jr.

April 2, 2024

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

Re: House Bill 7286 – Percentage of Income Payment Rate

Dear Chair Solomon:

I am submitting the following comments on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on House Bill 7286, which creates a percentage of income payment rate for eligible electric and gas customers.

This bill provides the PUC with the authority and mandate to implement a tiered percentage of income rate. The framework in the bill is reflective of the New Hampshire percentage of income payment plan but without the “first come, first served” nature that comes from fixed budget. Additionally, the framework builds on the structure and enrollment features of the current low-income rates to hopefully limit the administrative costs.

However, as we noted last year, The Narragansett Electric Company’s ownership has changed from National Grid to a PPL company. PPL in Pennsylvania has a combined PIPP with arrearage forgiveness component. The PUC suggests that it may make sense to revise the bill to create a framework that would allow for efficiencies that may come from the Pennsylvania experience, particularly in administrative and billing system areas.

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: Representative Slater