

HB-5106
PUC



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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Public Utilities Commission

Chairman Ronald T. Gerwatowski
Commissioner Abigail Anthony

March 20, 2025

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

Re: House Bill 5106 – Regulatory Powers of Administration

Dear Chair Solomon:

I am submitting the following comments on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on House Bill 5106 – Regulatory Powers of Administration - electric rates tied to the consumer price index. Under this bill, the PUC would not be able to approve any increase in rates proposed to be charged by National Grid of more than 5.5% or the CPI, if higher.

General Assembly review would be required of any requested rate increase in excess of 5.5%. In the event the General Assembly did not take an affirmative vote, a deferral balance would grow, resulting in even higher costs to ratepayers in the future. Additionally, this bill raises several constitutional questions, including whether it would violate separations of powers.

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 Lombardi