



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS

Administration

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May 29, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman – House Committee Corporations
State House
Providence, R.I. 02903

Re: **House Bill 6361** – An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers - Regulatory Powers of Administration

Dear Chairman Solomon:

The Division is opposed to H-6361 which would, as written, potentially replace monthly with quarterly billing for electric and gas customers.

A major concern is the affordability of bills that reflect three months of accumulated charges. Additionally, monthly price signals are a benefit to consumers who may be able to adjust usage. While one aspect of the proposed legislation would place a time limit on estimated meter readings, we suggest this issue would be better addressed in regulatory proceedings.

The vast majority of gas and electric bills are issued monthly with data generated by actual meter readings. Occasionally for operational reasons, or in instances when the transmitting device on a meter ceases to function, an estimated reading is employed based on historical usage. In some circumstances, multiple estimated readings have been used when there have been issues limiting distribution company access to the meter, or other technical reasons.

Currently in the Division's Gas Rules *Standards for Gas Utilities, Master Meter Systems and Jurisdictional Propane Systems (815-RICR-20-00-1)* is a provision that estimated bills will not exceed 6 consecutive months on any residential, commercial, or industrial account. Additionally, the distribution company is directed to address any issues with non-reporting meters within two months.

The corresponding electric rules *Standards for Electric Utilities (815-RICR-30-00-1)* currently do not have limits on the number of estimated readings. The Division has been looking into alignment of these provisions to establish similar limits on estimated readings for electric service. Both the gas and electric rules have extensive standards for meters and provisions for meter testing.

The Division believes the proper means to address this issue is through amendment of existing regulation which allows for a discussion of the best provisions going forward to address the needs and concerns of customers and regulated entities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda George". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda George, Esq.
Administrator, RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers

CC: The Honorable Representative Rebecca M. Kislak
The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel