

February 14, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chairman, House Corporations Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

**RE: H-7173 – Utility Infrastructure Protections**

Dear Chairman Solomon:

On behalf of Rhode Island Energy, I write in support of H-7173, which expands protections against the theft of critical utility infrastructure. We thank Speaker Pro Tempore Kennedy and other bill sponsors for their work on this issue.

Rhode Island Energy provides essential energy services to more than 770,000 customers across the Ocean State through the delivery of electricity and natural gas. Our team of 1,300+ union and non-union employees is dedicated to helping Rhode Island customers and communities thrive, while supporting the transition to a cleaner energy future – in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner.

Rhode Island Energy supports the strengthening of such penalties and safeguards to limit harmful actions that may disrupt critical infrastructure and energy systems that power our economy and keep families safe and warm. While this legislation primarily extends the General Laws to cover broadband, internet, and wireless property, a strengthened deterrent against willful and malicious damage to essential utility infrastructure benefits everyone – including electric and natural gas customers.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,



Nicholas S. Ucci  
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee