

H-7112  
PUC  
Concerns



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## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

### Public Utilities Commission

Chairman Ronald T. Gerwatowski  
Commissioner Abigail Anthony  
Commissioner Karen Bradbury

April 7, 2026

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

Re: House Bill 7112 – 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 Rhode Island Energy of more than 5.5% or the CPI.

According to the language of the proposed bill, 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.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 401-780-2147 or [cynthia.wilsonfrias@puc.ri.gov](mailto: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

Copy: Representative Lombardi