

HB-7270  
PUC  
Amendment



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## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

### Public Utilities Commission

Chairman Ronald T. Gerwatowski  
Commissioner Abigail Anthony  
Commissioner Karen M. Bradbury

April 7, 2026

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

Re: House Bill 7270 – Large Energy Use Facilities (Data Centers) Tariff

Dear Chair Solomon:

I am submitting the following comments on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on House Bill 7270 – Classification of services for large energy use facilities (Data Centers). The PUC recognizes the sponsor's concerns but offers suggestions for amendments.

1. Strike the definition of "cost of serving." This is a generally accepted utility ratemaking term that applies to all regulated utilities and should not be limited to electricity. As such, the definition is unnecessary. If the intent is to apply the term specifically to the proposed Data Center tariff, the definition should be moved into the new section of the law with a new term name.
2. Move the term "Facility" and its definition into the new section of the law. The term Facility is used in other areas of Title 39 and we have not completed an exhaustive review to determine whether defining the term in the general definitions section could create unintended consequences.
3. Strike the new term "retail electricity consumer." This term may be limiting in the context of the Title 39 as a whole does not appear necessary to effectuate the purposes of the proposed new section.

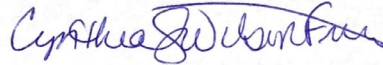
Within the new section outlining the parameters of a new services tariff, the term "unwarranted" appears in several places. This is not a commonly used ratemaking term in Rhode Island. Terms such as "unreasonable" or "unjustified" are more commonly used.

Additionally, as discussion on this bill continue, the PUC would seek clearer understanding of whether there is a clear expectation that the tariff apply to interconnection and rates or just to rates.

More clarity on the contractual terms contemplated as part of a tariff would also be helpful. Finally, more clarity about the phrase “large amounts of electricity” will be needed for the PUC to produce an adequate biennial report.

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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Cynthia G. Wilson-Frias  
Chief of Legal Services

cc: Representative Speakman