



**2026 EXECUTIVE
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April 7, 2026

The Honorable Joseph Solomon, Jr.
Chairman, House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Chairman Solomon and Committee Members:

The Northern RI Chamber of Commerce (NRICC) represents businesses in the communities of Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield and Woonsocket. The Chamber respectfully opposes H.7880, An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers.

This bill creates a tiered rate system for electricity and natural gas customers whose household income level is below 150% of the federal poverty level. For these households, the plan envisions capping electric rates to ensure that they pay no more than 3% of their income on electricity or 6% of their income if the house utilizes electricity as a sole source of heat. The program will be funded by increasing rates on all other customers.

Rhode Island customers currently pay the fifth highest residential electricity rates in the country, third highest commercial rates, and second highest industrial rates according to the Energy Information Agency's most recent data.¹ It is a challenge the state faces as it tries to attract businesses which bring with them jobs that help lift people out of poverty.

The diversion of costs to other residential, commercial and industrial users is not the answer to the high cost of energy in Rhode Island. We must work to find ways to decrease the cost overall, helping all customers

The Chamber stands ready to work to find solutions to the high cost of energy in our state.

Respectfully,

Monika P. Zuluaga
President & CEO

¹ 1 U.S. Energy Information Administration, Electric Power Monthly, January, 2026, Average Price of Electricity to Ultimate Consumers by End-Use Sector.

https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_a