



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

April 7, 2026

The Hon. Joseph Solomon
Chair, House Committee on Corporations
82 Smith Street, House Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Letter of Support for H7880: An Act Relating To Public Utilities And Carriers -- Duties Of Utilities And Carriers

Dear Chair Solomon:

I write to you in strong support of H7880: An Act Relating To Public Utilities And Carriers -- Duties Of Utilities And Carriers. This bill creates an income-sensitive tiered subsidy program to ensure that home energy utility costs are affordable for eligible low-income households.

The rising costs of utilities in Rhode Island is putting a lot of working-class residents in difficult positions. In our office, we hear from many constituents who call in looking for support to keep their heat on. They struggle to understand their bills and why delivery charges vastly outsize the actual cost of the utility. They call us scared that they would have to choose between food and heat. Nobody in our state should have to make that choice.

I am incredibly grateful to the state agencies and nonprofits in our state that work to help residents keep their heat on. Programs like Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), the various Community Action Partnerships, and even the United Way's Good Neighbor Energy Fund do incredible work to help eligible residents. But continuing to rely on services like these only puts a band-aid over what is a much bigger problem. By creating an income-sensitive tiered subsidy program, we can ensure that people can maintain their integrity by continuing to pay for the services they receive, but at a level that they can accommodate. For this reason, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor, State of Rhode Island
CC: Representative Scott Slater



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor, State of Rhode Island
CC: Representative Scott Slater