

April 6, 2026

Chairman Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
House Committee on Corporations
State House
Providence, RI 02903

The Hon. Brett P. Smiley
Mayor
Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

Re: H 7881 - An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers - Duties of Utilities and Carriers

Dear Chairman Solomon:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Providence Water Supply Board would like to take this opportunity to comment on H 7881 which would prohibit electric, gas or water utilities serving more than 100,000 customers from recovering rates to offset costs related to various expenses including those incurred during a rate proceeding.


Providence Water owns and operates the largest water utility in Rhode Island. We are responsible for supplying affordable, high-quality drinking water to approximately 80,000 retail customers and seven wholesaler accounts throughout the state.

Providence Water is an enterprise fund and prohibited by the RI Public Utilities Commission from earning a profit. While H 7881 does not currently affect Providence Water, it would negatively affect us if we expanded our retail customer base in the future by limiting our ability to collect sufficient rates to recover costs, including those incurred during a rate proceeding. This would impede our funding mechanism and may result in a lack of funding to complete projects and programs which are in place to protect public health and ensure the sustainability of the water supply system.

As such, Providence Water is recommending the modification of H 7881 to include language restricting the requirements of this legislation to utilities which are investor-owned.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Respectfully,
PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD


Ricky Caruolo
General Manager

MEMBER
Rhode Island Water Works Assn.
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