

Lou Mansolillo

From: andraea.elizabeth@icloud.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 12:25 PM
To: House Corporations Committee
Subject: Written Testimony for H7886

[You don't often get email from andraea.elizabeth@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

My name is Andraea Dewaele and I am writing in support of proposal H7886. I am a neighborhood resident and have been a front of house team member at Little Sister for almost three years. Last Spring, I was working in the middle of a bustling Friday morning when a representative from Rhode Island walked in and curtly demanded a check from me (before ever asking if I was the owner). After explaining that the owner was in Cambridge at her other business, he walked outside to call her. No more than 30 seconds later, he walked back inside, past customers waiting in line and said, "the power is going off right now." After another thirty seconds, I stood behind the counter and watched as a room full of people sipping coffee, chatting, eating, and waiting for food, was blanketed in darkness. The hum of the refrigerators was silenced. Any ability to serve food or take payments was instantly eliminated in the middle of our business day. It was, and continues to be shocking to me that a utility company would take deliberate, tangible steps to disrupt a business and its employees ability to earn an income. Without some "at the buzzer" financial gymnastics from our owner, myself and our chef would have lost our jobs at Little Sister. We would have been effectively unemployed in an instant. Aside from my personal loss, I can attest to the loss that the closure of Little Sister would have had on the community we have built. We are a small restaurant, and have built close relationships with many of our customers. We have hosted bridal showers, milestone birthday parties, baby showers, political events, and the Bad Bunny concert livestream. Rhode Island Energy would have had all of this eliminated due to their billing practices and their inability to work with their customers in a meaningful way. Proposed bill H7886 would be a major step in curtailing RIH's ability to take advantage of their customers, preventing major losses and disruptions to the community.