



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 H7886: An Act Relating To Public Utilities And Carriers -- Regulatory Powers Of Administration

Dear Chair Solomon:

I write to you in strong support of H7886: An Act Relating to Public Utilities And Carriers -- Regulatory Powers Of Administration. This bill requires quarterly reading of electric and gas meters.

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 a large number of constituents who call in looking for support to keep their heat on. There are a lot of policies, regulations, and procedures that inflate the cost of utilities in our state, and among them are the policies surrounding how frequently a meter is read.

Reading the meter helps a utility provider determine how much energy has been consumed by an individual household. While monthly readings ensure the most accurate data for billing purposes, oftentimes utility companies rely on fewer readings, supplemented by formulas and estimates to determine a ratepayer's monthly utility bill. While this may be more convenient for the major energy suppliers, this means that many ratepayers are paying for more energy than they consume. This bill resolves that by not only requiring quarterly readings of electric and gas meters, but also requires that any overpayment received due to a utility company neglecting to read the meter be forfeited.

Nobody in our state should be left in the cold because they cannot afford their utilities. This bill advocates on behalf of ratepayers by requiring accurate readings to ensure that residents pay only for the energy that they use. I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabina Matos".

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor, State of Rhode Island
CC: Representative David Morales