



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

April 7, 2026

The Hon. Robert Britto
Chair, Senate Commerce Committee
82 Smith Street, Room 212
Providence, RI 02903

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

RE: Letter of Support for S2777 and H7888: An Act Relating To Public Utilities And Carriers -- Public Utilities Commission

Dear Chairs Britto and Solomon:

I write to you in strong support of S2777 and H7888: An Act Relating To Public Utilities And Carriers -- Public Utilities. These two companion bills in your respective committees will provide that effective July 1, 2026, the profit margin of any electric distribution company or distributor of natural gas, would not exceed four percent (4%), in any given calendar year.

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. We need regulations in place to assure people that the rate they pay is based on the services they receive and not the corporate whims of the utility provider. These bills do just that, and for that reasons, I urge you to vote these bills favorably out of committee.

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 Megan Cotter
Senator Victoria Gu