

Re: Testimony in Support for House Bill No. 7890

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of House Bill No. 7890 because it would give Rhode Islanders a more meaningful voice in utility proceedings. At a time when utility affordability is a major concern across the state, it is critical that residents and community groups have a fair opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their communities, their costs, and their future.

In practice, meaningful participation in these proceedings often requires expert testimony, technical analysis, and significant time and expense. Those barriers can prevent ordinary Rhode Islanders from being heard, while utilities are able to present their positions with far greater resources. Intervenor funding would help create a more balanced and transparent process by allowing affected parties to participate in a meaningful way.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support this legislation and move it forward. Rhode Island's utility regulatory system should not depend on only one well-funded voice. Public participation must be real, and intervenor funding is an important step toward that goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Politics Team,
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