



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS

Administration
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June 23, 2021

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman – House Committee on Corporations
State House
Providence, R.I. 02903

Re: **H 6431 Nonregulated power producer consumer bill of rights amendment**

Dear Chairman Solomon:

The Division supports H 6431 which strengthens and clarifies consumer protections as they relate to competitive electricity suppliers referred to as nonregulated power producers. Specifically, the amendment is focused on a part of the law that requires customers to agree to a change in supply contract terms before their contracts are extended. This issue was addressed in a 2019 amendment from then Lieutenant Governor McKee which allows consumers to automatically revert to the electric distribution company's default rate when their contract terms end, provided they do not elect to stay with their supplier under new or extended terms. This has protected consumers from unwittingly paying higher, usually variable rates, when their term agreements ended.

The amendment before you today addresses two issues. It provides for enhanced notification to consumers that may have had contracts prior to the 2019 legislation's effective date, essentially ensuring that they make informed choices about their supply rate. Secondly, it clarifies that these provisions do not apply to contracts established through municipal aggregation which has statutory protections, Public Utilities Commission review procedures, and municipal oversight.

In supporting the 2019 amendment, we in no way sought to include municipal aggregation in these requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda George".

Linda George, Esq.
Administrator, RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers

Cc. House Committee on Corporations
Representative Edward T. Cardillo, Jr.