

February 24, 2026

House Finance Committee

Re: SUPPORT for Article 11, Sections 3 through 11

Members of the Committee,

My name is Ada Rojas. I live in West Warwick and work on the administrative team at a charter school. This is my first time testifying, and I am here to strongly support the Governor's utility bill relief proposal (Article 11, Sections 3–11).

I am deeply concerned about the total cost of my utility bills, particularly the skyrocketing delivery charges. Despite being enrolled in Budget Billing to try and manage my expenses, my costs are out of control. In December, my Rhode Island Energy electric bill was \$340.00 and my gas bill was \$270.79. By January, my monthly electric bill had jumped to \$485.48 and my gas bill reached \$382.79. For January alone, I faced nearly \$870 in utility costs for a family of two.

A massive part of this burden comes from delivery fees. In January, my electric delivery charges alone were \$112.95, and my gas delivery charges were \$132.12. It is frustrating to know that about one-quarter of our total energy bills come directly from state programs and taxes. While the distribution portion of our bills has increased by about 5% since 2020, the portion driven by state programs and taxes has grown by roughly 36%.

Lowering these delivery charges—as well as the hidden charges in the supply portion—matters immensely to my family. We currently face the fourth-highest residential electric rates in the country, which creates a severe cost-of-living disadvantage for hardworking families trying to make ends meet. Under current law, these charges are set to increase, and I support the Governor's plan to lower them instead. Reforming these state programs to align with neighboring states will deliver significant and necessary relief to my household.

Please support families like mine by passing Article 11, Sections 3 through 11.

Thank you for your time,
Ada Rojas
West Warwick, RI