



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS

Administration
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888
(401) 941-4500

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Robert Britto
Chairman – Senate Committee on Commerce
State House
Providence, R.I. 02903

Re: S 2641 – Electric Utility Billing and Metering Standards

Dear Chairman Britto:

The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division) appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on Senate Bill No. 2641, which would require us to establish billing and metering standards for electric utility service. Please understand that the Division already has robust and effective regulations in place dealing with most of the issues this legislation intends to address. That is especially true regarding several sections listed under §39-2-1.5(a), like (1) Regular Meter Reading, (2) Billing Transparency and (3) Customer Billing Records.

The Division understands that the overarching intent of the bill, however, aims to prohibit the use of “estimated reads” for extended periods in electric billing matters. Indeed, the Division already has regulations in place that prohibit *natural gas* distribution companies from using estimated reads for longer than six (6) months; admittedly, we have no such established regulation the electric side.

The Division has been in contact with the sponsor about this very issue over the last few months – and we share his concerns. Simply put, with today’s technology, there should be very few instances where customer bills are not based on “Actual Reads” each and every month. Accordingly, we are presently working to remedy the matter – that is, to establish the same parameters for electric meter reads that presently exist on the gas side – without the need for the lengthy rulemaking this legislation would require, and for which we already have the requisite statutory authority.

The Division is confident it will be able to solve this issue administratively, without the need for that lengthy rulemaking, or legislative direction. And I assure you we will keep the sponsor apprised on our progress.

Sincerely,

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

CC: The Honorable Samuel D. Zurier
The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce
Kristen Silvia, Director of Legislation and Deputy Chief of Staff