



April 7, 2026

The Honorable Robert Britto
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

slegislation@rilegislature.gov

OPPOSE S 2779 – Utility Cost Recovery Restrictions and Spending Cap

Dear Chair Britto and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I write in opposition to S 2779, which would broadly prohibit utilities from recovering certain costs through rates and impose a 3% cap on infrastructure, safety, and reliability spending.

The bill would have unintended consequences for reliability and transparency. Restricting cost recovery for communications, public education, and regulatory participation risks limiting customer awareness, reducing transparency, and weakening coordination during outages and emergencies.

The proposed 3% cap on infrastructure spending is equally concerning. A fixed cap, regardless of system needs or external conditions, could constrain necessary investments in grid modernization, storm resilience, and maintenance—ultimately increasing long-term costs and risks for customers.

Finally, the bill departs from Rhode Island's established regulatory model, where the Public Utilities Commission evaluates costs and investments based on evidence. Replacing that process with rigid statutory limits reduces flexibility and introduces unnecessary risk. For these reasons, we ask Committee not to advance S 2779.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie White".

Laurie White
President
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce