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May 21, 2026

The Honorable Louis DiPalma  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Chairman DiPalma and Committee Members:

The Northern RI Chamber of Commerce (NRICC) represents businesses in the communities of Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield and Woonsocket. The Chamber respectfully opposes S.2248, An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers.

This bill creates a tiered rate system for electricity and natural gas customers whose household income level is below 150% of the federal poverty level. For these households, the plan envisions capping electric rates to ensure that they pay no more than 3% of their income on electricity or 6% of their income if the house utilizes electricity as a sole source of heat. The program will be funded by increasing rates on all other customers.

Rhode Island customers currently pay the sixth highest residential electricity rates in the country, fifth highest commercial rates, and fourth highest industrial rates according to the Energy Information Agency's most recent data<sup>1</sup>. It is a challenge the state faces as it tries to attract businesses which bring with them jobs that help lift people out of poverty.

The diversion of costs to other residential, commercial and industrial users is not the answer to the high cost of energy in Rhode Island. We must work to find ways to decrease the cost overall, helping all customers

**The Chamber stands ready to work to find solutions to the high cost of energy in our state.**

Respectfully,

Monika P. Zuluaga, President & CEO

<sup>1</sup> Energy Information Administration, Electric Power Monthly, Average Price of Electricity to Ultimate Customers by End-Use Sector. February, 2026.

[https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm\\_table\\_grapher.php?t=epmt\\_5\\_6\\_a](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_a)