

May 20, 2026

From: A. David Larson, East Providence, RI - Hearts for Social Justice
To: RI Senate Finance Committee

Subject: **Support for Senate Bill S2248** – Tiered Utility Rates

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill S2248 which would create an income-sensitive tiered subsidy program to ensure that home energy utility costs are affordable for eligible low-income households.

Many families are struggling to provide for the basics for their families. Most low income households are renters and have little control over the efficiency of their homes. They often cannot take advantage of utility efficiency programs around insulation or appliance efficiency, yet they pay for these services like all other ratepayers. Rhode Island should do all in its power to ensure that all citizens are able to afford basic necessities (e.g. housing, food, utilities, education). Providing a tiered subsidy program for utilities will help hard working families maintain their utility accounts and afford more food and basic necessities. This may lead to savings by reducing the costs currently accrued for termination for non-payment.

I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you so much,
A. David Larson (East Providence)
Co-Chair - Hearts for Social Justice RI
RI United Methodists in Action