

SB-3272
PUC
Concerns



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Public Utilities Commission

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

Chairman Ronald T. Gerwatowski
Commissioner Abigail Anthony
Commissioner Karen M. Bradbury

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chair, Senate Committee on Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Senate Bill 3272 – Net Metering

Dear Chair DiPalma:

I am submitting the following comments on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on Senate Bill 3272 related to Net Metering with amendments to the Renewable Energy Development Fund and the Long-Term Contracting Standard. The PUC takes no policy position on this bill, but advises that it contains significant technical drafting issues that create implementation and administrative challenges. In addition, contrary to the description of the bill, it does not reduce the cap for eligible ground mount solar net metering systems. It adds an additional 225 MW cap. With the current 92 MW (as of April 30, 2026), the real cap will be raised to at least 317 MW.

This bill creates confusing contracting requirements involving multiple parties with unclear legal roles. It directs the electric distribution company to offer thirty-year contracts to owners of certain net metering systems while separately requiring the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation to execute those same contracts without a stated purpose. The bill does not clearly specify the legal roles of Rhode Island Energy and the Commerce Corporation. Because Commerce Corporation is effectively receiving a contribution to the Renewable Energy Development Fund from system owners, it is unclear why it must also be a contracting party in transactions between the electric distribution company and the system owner.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 401-780-2147 or cynthia.wilsonfrias@puc.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia G. Wilson-Frias".

Cynthia G. Wilson-Frias
Chief of Legal Services