



State of Rhode Island
Office of the General Treasurer

James A. Diossa
General Treasurer

July 28, 2023

Ronald Gerwatowski, Chairman
Abigail Anthony, Commissioner
Jonathan Revens, Jr., Commissioner
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
88 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Chairman Grewatowski and Commissioners Anthony and Revens:

I am writing in response to Rhode Island Energy's (RIE) filed proposal that requires Commission approval to increase electric rates for consumers starting October 1. This proposal would hike consumer rates by 24%. While this increase is fractionally lower than the 50% spike households faced last year, Rhode Island households are already facing expensive electric costs. I urge you to protect consumers by reconsidering this proposed rate increase.

The proposed 24% increase is untenable for many Rhode Islanders, especially those that reside in low- and moderate-income communities. With the average household using 500 kilowatt hours a month, an average monthly bill would come out to be around \$166. For many working families, this hike, in addition to already high heating expenses, will force them to make the impossible choice between putting food on the table or keeping their home warm in the winter.

As our state continues to recover from the aftermath of a global pandemic, an increase in the cost of living due to inflationary pressures, and high energy costs, we must work to alleviate financial hardship for Rhode Islanders. RIE customers deserve a fair and affordable rate, especially in the coldest months of the year.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JD" or similar, written in a cursive style.

James A. Diossa
Rhode Island General Treasurer