

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

#1725

REPRESENTATIVE  
GORDON D. FOX  
Speaker of the House

Room 323 State House  
Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

401-222-2466



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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

House of Representatives

November 14, 2013

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DIV. OF PUBLIC UTL.  
2013 NOV 19 PM 12:38

Thomas F. Ahern  
Administrator  
RI Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Mr. Ahern:

The leadership of the House of Representatives respectfully requests a renewal of the Public Utilities Commission's previously adopted emergency regulations to restore gas and electric services to both protected and standard gas and electric utility customers. We ask the Commission to suspend Sections 2 and 3 of the "Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas and Water Utility Services" for the remainder of the 2013 calendar year to allow for a 10% down payment for restoration (or to avoid termination) of utility service. These responsible actions afford consumers a reasonable accommodation that ensures service heading into the winter months, while protecting the health and safety of Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents. This suspension could apply for a specified period of time to assist all households to re-establish utility service prior to the onset of cold weather.

With a still stagnant economy, many Rhode Islanders face the prospect of trying to survive the approaching winter without heat for their homes. Action is needed once again to help low income households. I hope you will strongly consider assisting Rhode Island families, elderly persons, individuals with disabilities and those who are living with limited incomes, to survive the approaching cold weather.

I look forward to having purposeful dialogue with the Commission on the new proposed regulations, so that a resolution is expeditiously rendered.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Speaker Gordon D. Fox

GDF/rad