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RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Elizabeth Marsis
48 Delmar Avenue, # 2
Providence, RI 02907

November 15, 2007

Luly E. Massaro
Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

VIA FAX: 941-1691

RE: Docket 3892

Dear Luly,

As a National Grid customer living in the State of Rhode Island, I wish to have my personal opinion entered as an official comment.

I oppose the budget cuts in the National Grid energy efficiency program filing 2008 in Docket No. 3892. The budget is much lower than the budget for 2007 for residential customers. The need for weatherization for the poor and near poor is greater than ever with energy prices as they are and with 2007 utility shut-offs at the highest record level (even after the passage of the Comprehensive Energy Efficiency, Conservation, and Affordability Act of 2006).

Theoretically, the conservation fee could be raised to level fund the programs, and it would not be an overall increase in payments by customers, in as much as the decrease in conservation fee revenues is due to decreased overall revenues. A fee rate increase would only be needed for 2008, because the Comprehensive Energy Efficiency, Conservation, and Affordability Act of 2006 funds the programs outside the conservation fee starting in 2009.

There are moral, social and health costs to cutbacks in funding for low-income weatherization that do not enter the standard calculus but add to the drain on state resources (in financial and human terms). 2008 is NOT the year to reduce energy efficiency, it is the year in which this funding should be increased to alleviate the maldistribution of the social costs of high energy prices, to reduce our energy consumption and stimulate the local economy with this investment.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Marsis
Operations Manager, George Wiley Center