

# 4450



EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, CITY OF PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

DONALD R. GREBIEN  
MAYOR

December 19, 2013

Chairperson Margaret E. Curran  
Commissioner Paul J. Roberti  
Commissioner Herbert F. DeSimone, Jr.  
R.I. Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888

By mail and email to: [mrussell@ripuc.state.ri.us](mailto:mrussell@ripuc.state.ri.us)

Re: Proposed changes to RIPUC Termination Rules

Dear Chairperson Curran, Commissioner Roberti and Commissioner DeSimone:

In a year where utility shutoffs have already exceeded the total for last year, winter weather has made an early entrance, and the state's economy continues to struggle including with one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, the prospect of changes to RIPUC Termination Rules governing utility shutoffs without full public discussion should be a non-starter.

Holding a single public hearing on Friday, Dec. 20 is simply inadequate, especially coming at a time of year when many of those who would be most directly affected, including seniors and people with mobility and other disability issues, find it most difficult to get out and around.

Accordingly, I am requesting that a series of hearings be held by RIPUC in communities around the state, including at an appropriate venue in the City of Pawtucket where many people would be affected by such changes, and at evening hours to allow people who work during the day to attend, throughout 2014 to allow for thorough public discussion and input on this vital issue.

Shortening the winter moratorium, reducing the age limit for who qualifies as elderly, and revising other shutoff rules are far-reaching proposed changes that would directly affect thousands of lives, including in Pawtucket. To unduly rush this review process would be counter to everyone's best interest, particularly at a time when RIPUC continues to not translate and disseminate proposed rules changes for non-English speakers who are as directly affected as everyone else.

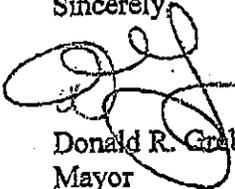
CITY HALL • PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND 02860  
(401) 728-0500 EXT. 281 • FAX (401) 723-8620 • TDD (401) 722-9239  
E-MAIL: [dgrebien@pawtucketri.com](mailto:dgrebien@pawtucketri.com) • [www.pawtucketri.com](http://www.pawtucketri.com)

The City of Pawtucket would be pleased to host an RIPUC hearing in a public building that would of course be accessible to those with disabilities and to work with you on scheduling or any other logistics. The contact person in my office is Lammis Vargas, Administrative Assistant, 728-0500, ext. 281, [lvargas@pawtucketri.com](mailto:lvargas@pawtucketri.com).

Please allow me to stress again my perspective that a fair, thorough and inclusive process should be undertaken before such far-reaching changes as those currently being proposed reach the final consideration stage before the RIPUC.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Grebieni  
Mayor

Cc: Honorable Members of the Pawtucket City Council  
Henry Shelton, Director, George Wiley Center  
Arthur Platt, President, Neighborhood Alliance of Pawtucket  
Fred Ordonez, Executive Director, D.A.R.E.  
Lisa Beader, Pawtucket resident

