

**Luly Massaro - Proposed changes to rules governing the termination of Residential Electric, Gas and Water Service**

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**From:** Elizabeth Reardon <bunnychello@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov" <luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov>  
**Date:** 12/4/2013 11:22 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to rules governing the termination of Residential Electric, Gas and Water Service  
**CC:** "scounty@projo.com" <scounty@projo.com>, "news@jamestownpress.com" <news...>

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Harwood Road

East

Greenwich, RI 02818

December 4, 2013  
Public Utilities Commissioners  
89 Jefferson Blvd  
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Commissioners Curran, Roberti, and De Simone,

I learned only this evening of your open meeting to be held in two days on Friday, December 6, 2013 at the Hearing Room A, 89 Jefferson Boulevard in Warwick, at the same time that I heard about the proposed new rules and regulations governing the termination of Residential Electric and Natural Gas. I understand that the window for written comments has passed for the topics on the agenda for the December 6 hearing, but since I cannot attend the Hearing to speak my concerns, I am writing you ,albeit belatedly, to urgently ask you to ***slow down*** the process of review of the new proposed rules and regulations regarding utility shut-offs. Your mission is to serve the public

of Rhode Island. I think you need to make more of an effort to make available to the public your proposed regulations and your thinking about them. You need to give the citizens of Rhode Island more time to understand what you are proposing.

**Especially I urge you to have hearings all across the State at times that working people can attend, before you follow through on your proposals.**

I have just come from a community meeting at the Neighborhood Guild in Wakefield for persons who are having trouble paying their utility bills. There are many, perhaps thousands who will be affected very harmfully by the new proposed regulations. I don't understand why you have proposed to tighten the regulations and narrow the eligibility at a time when unemployment is at such a high level in Rhode Island. But the unemployed are not the only ones that will be shut off from protections. Your proposals have greatly reduced eligibility for protection from shut-offs for babies, disabled, elderly, the seriously ill. You have proposed to reduce the Winter Moratorium Period with no Summer Moratorium even mentioned, though you know full well that people die from heat as well as from cold. And finally your document has been reduced from 55 to 8 pages which speaks to me of great potential for parsimony with regard to the most vulnerable.

Please be the advocate of those who need you the most.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth M. Reardon

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