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June 17, 2016

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

Re: **Investigation into the Changing Distribution System and Modernization of Rates
in Light of the Changing Distribution System
Docket No. 4600
Direct Energy - Application for Membership on Stakeholder Committee**

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Massaro:

Enclosed please find the original Application for Membership on Stakeholder Committee of Direct Energy Business, LLC, Direct Energy Services, LLC, and Direct Energy Solar (Astrum Solar, Inc. d/b/a Direct Energy Solar) (collectively, "Direct Energy") with nine (9) additional copies.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Pamela C. Rutkowski

Pamela C. Rutkowski
Enclosure



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**Re: Investigation into the Changing Distribution System and Modernization of Rates in
Light of the Changing Distribution System
Docket No. 4600
Application for Membership on Stakeholder Committee**

Dear Ms. Massaro,

Pursuant to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission's ("PUC") "Notice of Commencement of Docket and Invitation for Stakeholder Participation" issued on March 18, 2016, Direct Energy Business, LLC, Direct Energy Services, LLC, Direct Energy Solar (Astrum Solar, Inc. d/b/a Direct Energy Solar) (collectively, "Direct Energy" or "Direct") hereby submits its application for membership on the stakeholder committee established in the above-captioned proceeding. In support of its application, Direct Energy states as follows:

1. The name of the applicant or nominee and a description of the interests such person shall represent.

Response: Marc Hanks, Senior Manager of Government & Regulatory Affairs with Direct Energy LP, representing the interests of the retail electricity supplier industry. Direct Energy is one of North America's leading, integrated retail energy companies and is a registered Nonregulated Power Producer serving residential, small commercial and large commercial & industrial customers in the state of Rhode Island. Direct Energy is the largest residential, commercial, and industrial retailer of natural gas and electricity in North America with over 5 million customer relationships, revenues of US \$16.2 billion in 2015, and approximately 6,200 employees.

2. Evidence that the applicant or nominee is authorized to represent parties related to the interests the person proposes to represent.

Response: Direct Energy has authorized Marc Hanks, Senior Manager of Government & Regulatory Affairs at Direct Energy LP, to represent its interests on the stakeholder committee.

Mr. Hanks focuses on the design and implementation of retail electric and natural gas markets in the Northeast United States. He is specifically responsible for representing Direct Energy's interests in legislative and regulatory matters in the New England states. Mr. Hanks engages in the company's participation with administrative proceedings before state regulatory commissions and agencies, manages Direct Energy's relations with state elected officials, and monitors relevant developments in the restructured retail energy markets. He also provides frequent input into the strategic and tactical business decisions the company faces as it navigates the disparate regulatory and legislative environments among the many states in which Direct Energy operates. He was elected in 2015 and is currently serving in the role of Chairman of the Retail Energy Supply Association¹ ("RESA") New England Electric Caucus. Additionally, Mr. Hanks brings relevant experience having served on the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities' Grid Modernization Working Group and is currently serving on the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission's Grid Modernization Working Group.

3. **A written commitment that the applicant or nominee shall actively participate in good faith in the development of recommendations on issues under consideration in the docket.**

Response: Marc Hanks commits to actively participate in good faith in the development of recommendations on issues under consideration in the docket.

4. **The reasons that the interests of the person submitting the application or nomination cannot be adequately represented by other representatives.**

Response: No other stakeholder will adequately represent the interests of Direct Energy and the retail electricity supplier market sector in this proceeding. Mr. Hanks will represent Direct Energy, a national retail electricity supplier. Additionally, Mr. Hanks is the New England Chairman of RESA, a broad and diverse group of twenty-three (23) leading retail energy suppliers operating throughout the United States delivering competitively priced electricity and natural gas to residential, commercial and industrial energy customers. As there are no retail electricity suppliers presently serving on the stakeholder committee, Mr. Hanks is uniquely qualified to represent the interests of this important market sector in his capacity with Direct Energy and RESA.

¹ Founded in 1990, RESA is a broad and diverse group of more than twenty three (23) retail energy suppliers dedicated to promoting efficient, sustainable and customer-oriented competitive retail energy markets. RESA members operate throughout the United States delivering value-added electricity and natural gas service at retail to residential, commercial and industrial energy customers. More information on RESA can be found at www.resausa.org.

Thank you for your consideration of Direct Energy's membership on the stakeholder committee.

Sincerely,

/s/ Marc A. Hanks

Marc A. Hanks

Senior Manager, Government & Regulatory Affairs

Direct Energy, LP

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