



**Acadia
Center**

144 Westminster Street
Suite 203
Providence, RI 02903-2216
401.276.0600
www.acadiacenter.org

October 24, 2017

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

Docket No. 4684 – National Grid’s 2018-2020 Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plan

Dear Chairperson Curran and Commissioner Gold:

Rhode Island’s leadership on energy efficiency has paid significant dividends in our state: Efficiency lowers energy bills, boosts economic activity, and reduces harmful carbon emissions. Rhode Island’s nation-leading success depends on strong energy efficiency policies and programs guided by ambitious energy savings targets approved by this Commission. National Grid’s 2018-2020 Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plan lays out a pathway for maximizing the benefits of cost-effective energy efficiency in the coming years, and Acadia Center respectfully urges the Commission to approve it.

Acadia Center believes the Energy Efficiency Plan, as submitted, presents ambitious yet responsible goals and strategies to continue cost-effective investment in energy efficiency in line with state energy, environmental and economic policy. Continued momentum is especially critical, given the recent supply rate increase and the lack of commitment to energy efficiency demonstrated during the 2017 legislative session.

Acadia Center participated in the development of the Energy Efficiency Plan as a member of the Collaborative, a diverse group of stakeholders that includes representatives from the low-income, residential and business communities, among others. Considerable time was spent ensuring that the Plan lays the groundwork for capturing future savings, through innovative approaches, in the next phase of energy efficiency procurement.

Importantly, the SRP Plan envisions development of the RI System Data Portal, including heat maps, which should prove tremendously useful in identifying opportunities where non-wires alternatives can help defer costly and unnecessary infrastructure.

As Acadia Center made clear during the Plan’s drafting, our organization strongly opposes the \$12.5 million transfer of energy efficiency funds in 2018, as directed by the General Assembly. Diverting ratepayer funds collected for cost-

effective energy efficiency programs is flawed, short-sighted policy, and deprives Rhode Islanders of significant energy savings and other economic and environmental benefits.

Energy efficiency is not just a critical part of good climate policy – it is smart economic strategy that produces good-paying jobs, better quality of life, and healthier communities. Once again, Acadia Center urges the Commission to fully support the proposed 2018-2020 Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Erika Niedowski

Erika Niedowski
Policy Advocate
eniedowski@acadiacenter.org
401.276.0600