

**From:** [Rita Dugdale](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] :  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 6, 2022 3:32:59 PM

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Rita Dugdale  
52 Governors Hill  
West Warwick  
401 864 6803

I am close to 90 years old. I live on a fixed income. I live as frugally as I possibly can. I also heat my condo with electricity. A small condo - 10,500 sq ft. My method of heating is with a heat pump. Upon moving into my condo, I contacted National Grid about the availability of connecting to the gas line 230 feet from my residence. The cost was 100 per ft. Base cost of \$23,000, connecting to the condo and installing a new system was out of the question. Possibly a cost of \$50,000+

In the Winter months my thermostat is set at 68 degrees during the day and 60 at night. Summer months never below 78 degrees . I have maintained a record of each month's electricity charges for the last five years and current. My Annual costs are as follows:  
2018 3781.53 2019 4040.09 2020 3500.83 2021 3626.00 to date 2723.49  
Dependent on the weather conditions.

There is no way I can conserve energy better than I do, most importantly I cannot survive with a 50% increase in electricity costs. Supposedly, rates were not to increase for the next two years.

**From no rate increase to a 50% increase is ludicrous!**

Our RI economy will be adversely impacted. Our State is now reeling from the effects of the covid shutdowns. Inflation is out of control. Food, clothing, gas, heating oil and all other essentials are too costly for Rhode Islanders. This 50% increase in electricity will push this State over the edge, in my opinion. I also have concerns about our coastline and the negative impact on it because of this "green energy".

In conclusion, I am not in favor of turning our beautiful state into another California!

**From:** [Ron Arno](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] :  
**Date:** Monday, September 12, 2022 1:51:31 PM

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This not right people are struggling now from covid and you want to increase costs ,where is all saving from solar going ?

**From:** [Kate Treadway Baker](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Concerned citizen and customer  
**Date:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:52:07 AM

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As a customer of RI Energy and a constituent of RI, I wanted to voice my growing concern about the new electricity provider in our state, RI Energy, and their proposed rate increase. With RI Energy making significant profits there is absolutely no need to pass on inflation driven cost increases to consumers. Utilities are a public good, but the proposed and unprecedented rate increase does not reflect that and instead seeks to price gouge consumers. Unfortunately there is no competition, I cannot say oh let me get electricity from a different provider altogether and not give RI Energy my business. This monopoly combined with their greedy outlook is detrimental to the welfare of all Rhode Islanders. The rate increase must be capped at a lower rate percentage and legislation should be put in place to prevent price gouging increases in the future.

Best  
Kathryn Baker  
Lincoln Resident

**From:** [Ames Colt](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : DO NOT RAISE RATES  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 11:01:57 AM

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Hello Luly,

Do not raise rates. Rhode Island Energy has the money to eat the rate increases. the working class people of RI simply don't. If you allow this raise to go through, you will likely have people freeze to death this winter. thousands of others will be impoverished by the debt they will accumulate due to the proposed increase.

Thanks,  
Ames

**From:** [Danielle Quaranta](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Electric bill  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 7:48:29 PM

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As a Rhode Island resident we in this state can not allow our electric company to increase our bill ! I'm a nurse and I see every year people coming in for hypothermia because they can't afford heat! If this passes people are going to freeze to death! It is happening in our state! You can prevent this! Our economy isn't we're it needs to be so to increase is insane.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [John O'Toole](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments\\_PUC](#)  
**Cc:** [georgewileycenterRI@gmail.com](mailto:georgewileycenterRI@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Energy Rate Change  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 1:25:12 PM

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To whom it may concern,

It is morally wrong to increase energy rates when so many are struggling financially. Increasing the rate will lead directly to loss of quality of life for Rhode Islanders, as well as loss of life itself.

The PUC must decrease the profit margin of utility companies, from 10% back to 6%;

Rhode Island Energy should voluntarily set their profit margin at lower levels, instead of what the PUC allows;

Rhode Island Energy must commit to working to pass a Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP); and,

Rhode Island Energy must share the burden of increasing electricity and natural gas market costs by absorbing some of the increased costs and by withdrawing their current rate hike proposals.

Again, action contrary to these demands will result in loss in quality of life, and even death for vulnerable Rhode Islanders unable to pay to keep their homes warm.

V/R

John O'Toole  
Environmental Scientist  
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer  
Bristol, RI

**From:** [Cvpride](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : In regards to the increase  
**Date:** Monday, September 12, 2022 6:42:24 PM

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Good Afternoon

Hello I'm reaching out in regards to the increase. I'm asking that you please not allow this to pass. My family is struggling and we are a family of 7. After covid things haven't been the same gas prices just started going down and food inflation is up. Our bill is already high and makes it difficult for us to pay and with a increase I'm afraid we won't be able to afford it. I ask that noone please raise the price of the utility. Thank you God Bless

**From:** [Rita Dugdale](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Increase in cost of electricity  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 2:21:27 PM

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This commission has the life of the State of Rhode Island literally in its hands. We, Rhode Islanders, learned that National Grid had bilked their customers of millions of dollars. Then we learned that several million dollars was given to RI Energy. We also learned that RI Energy would not raise their rates for 2/3 years. Now we learn that this energy company will raise its rates 50% beginning in October.

**This 50% increase is more than unjust; it is robbery!**

Rhode Islanders cannot afford this ridiculous increase. We reside in a State that is not economically very sound to begin with. **Inflation** is killing the citizens with rise in food costs, housing, every aspect of our lives. This increase will negatively impact hospitals, schools, all businesses which will in turn be passed on to the citizens. Rising costs in health care, more taxes to support our schools, increases in already inflated prices of food etc.

**Our State, our well being and our lives are in your hands. Please decide wisely.**

Rita Dugdale



**From:** [Carole Marshall](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments\\_PUC](#); [PublicComments\\_PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Opposing RI Energy's Rate Change  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:35:08 PM

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To: Public Utilities Commission

I am hereby commenting in regard to the proposed and appalling electricity and gas rate increases being considered by the PUC at a public hearing on Friday, September 16, 2022.

I strongly urge you to reject both of the proposed increases, which will seriously harm Rhode Islanders living on fixed incomes. Many simply cannot afford to eat as well as pay utilities and rent with an increase of more than 45% per month for electricity and 15% for gas.

RI Energy must share the burden of the globally increasing electricity and natural gas market costs by absorbing a fair portion of the increased costs and by withdrawing their current rate hike proposals.

The law empowering the Public Utilities Commission lists one of the key purposes of the Commission thusly: "Supervision and reasonable regulation by the state of the manner in which such businesses....within the state are necessary to protect and promote the convenience, health, comfort, safety, accommodation, and welfare of the people, and are a proper exercise of the police power of the state."

PUC, PLEASE FULFILL THE ABOVE PURPOSE AND SERVE THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE!  
There is no reason why RI Energy must have a profit of up to 10% while so many Rhode Islanders will suffer greatly from the inability to afford the massive price hikes.

Sincerely,  
Carole Marshall  
37 Bullocks Point Avenue  
Riverside, RI 02915

**From:** [havoc641](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Proposed Rhode Island Energy Rate Hike  
**Date:** Monday, September 12, 2022 10:21:17 PM

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Good Evening,

I am writing in staunch opposition to the proposed rate hike. When I first heard that a new company would be taking over the energy supply and distribution for our state, I grew wary. The times we live in make pessimism all the easier. As is the way of things such as this, however, there was little I could do or say in the matter. As time passed, my attention was drawn to more pressing matters of taking care of my family and making the budget of a teacher work for a family of four.

One day, on my way to teach Middle School, I noticed a billboard on Route 10. It advertised that Rhode Island Energy was to be part of the state and they wanted us to “get to know them.”

I never went to the site to learn more. Instead, I paid attention to what anyone with common sense would know shows the truth of who someone is: their actions.

Quite simply, they lied. They said they would be good for our state. Then they proceeded to propose this historic rate hike. I am not naive. I realize that things cost more. With two children, it would be difficult not to notice the increase in costs of the last few years. What this company has shown us is that they cannot possibly wish to be good for Rhode Island. I know it's a business and businesses are designed to earn a profit. I also know that this is an unprecedented time we are living in and I truly do not believe that the vast majority of those who use their services can afford such an increase. This simply cannot be allowed.

I ask that you reconsider. That you find another way. I ask that you consider the covenant you made with your words and let your actions reflect that.

Sincerely,  
Thomas A Habershaw III  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joe Bento](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Cc:** [georgewileycenterri@gmail.com](mailto:georgewileycenterri@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comment for Utility Increase  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:52:15 PM

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Hello,

To start, I think it's horrible to have public comment on a work day during business hours. Thankfully we can express our opinions here and hopefully they are heard.

Rhode Islanders are struggling now more than ever. Inflation has gone up 9%, rent is through the roof. (My rent went up 40% in one year). It is morally reprehensible to increase the cost of electricity by this amount.

What's also screwed up, is that Dan McKee signed a bill to help lower income families this year, which I think is great, but where is the help for middle class families like myself??? We CONTINUALLY get squeezed for every extra penny we have. The poor is taken care of with subsidies and assistance, the rich aren't affected b/c they are rich, and here I am in a constant struggle. I'm tired of it. I'm tired of everyone trying to take all of my money leaving me with crumbs.

Rhode Island Energy should voluntarily set their profit margin at lower levels, instead of what the PUC allows and they must work to commit to pass a percentage Income Payment Plan.

Rhode Island uses the least amount of electricity per capita in the country, yet we pay the highest. THIS NEEDS TO END! People like myself are at our wits end. I cannot afford another increase.

Thank you,

**From:** [Dennis Brown](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Public Comments on Rhode Island Energy's Proposed Rate Changes  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 3:45:15 PM

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I am unable to attend the public hearing on proposed rate changes by Rhode Island Energy. This being the case, I would like to express my opinion on this proposal.

As everyone is aware, the prices of goods and services have increased in the last year. While the gas prices have declined a bit, those of us who do not have a job or extra savings are spending more for less. In my case, my wife and I are surviving on a small pension and social security. I am cutting back on food expenses which includes replacing steak with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. We have not been on a vacation since the pandemic started and we have had to deal with unanticipated expenses for our 1 car and our 44 year old house.

I realize we are in better shape than many of our fellow citizens, but we can not continue to cover the many increases in expenses especially since we are both on Medicare and experiencing a significant decrease in our investments.

Since we are both senior citizens, I implore you to deny this rate change at least until the economy improves.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Dennis & Gail Brown

**From:** [Erika Munoz](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : REJECT RATE HIKES  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:07:38 PM

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PUC Hearing Committee--

47%? That's disgusting. To your own people. DO NOT RAISE THE RATES.

-Erika Munoz  
45 Wealth Ave, Apt 3 02908

**From:** [Allie Jette](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 12:48:18 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I wildly object to a hike in the rates for RI energy consumers. As anyone with a pulse can see, we're all drowning. With a lot of the old homes in this state, and oil being the cost it is; electric may be the only way many of the most vulnerable will have to heat their home. To DOUBLE the cost of electricity for Rhode Islanders is nothing short of disgusting. After the pandemic, the cost of oil, the insane housing crisis, inflation, the costs of groceries and wage discrepancies, we are all barely keeping our heads above water.

I am damn near begging for this to be suspended until next year when costs are projected to decline.

Thank you!  
Allie Jette



**From:** [Shana Klinger](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments\\_PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change  
**Date:** Monday, September 12, 2022 7:12:20 PM

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TO: Public Utilities Commission

These comments are in regards to the proposed electricity and gas rate increases from RI Energy being considered by the PUC at a public hearing on September 16, 2022.

I urge you to reject both of these proposed increases which will seriously harm myself (a 73 year old woman on fixed Social Security income), and so many others like me. I simply cannot afford to eat, pay utilities and rent with an increase of 45% per month for electricity and 15% for gas.

RI Energy must share the burden of the globally increasing electricity and natural gas market costs by absorbing a significant portion of the increased costs and by withdrawing their current rate hike proposals.

The public law empowering the Public Utilities Commission states one of the key purposes of the PUC is: "Supervision and reasonable regulation by the state of the manner in which such businesses construct their systems and carry on their operations within the state are necessary **to protect and promote the convenience, health, comfort, safety, accommodation, and welfare of the people, and are a proper exercise of the police power of the state.**" (RI Public Law, Chapter 316, 96-H 8124B).

Please fulfill your purpose! The only way it is "reasonable" for RI Energy to pass on the full cost of these increases to customers is in a society in which corporate profit is valued more than human life. There is no sane reason that RI Energy must have a profit of up to 10% while so many Rhode Islanders suffer from lack of ability to pay utilities.

Please protect us.

Thank you,  
Shana Lieberman Klinger  
276 Glenwood Avenue  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

**From:** [Joseph Wilkicki](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change  
**Date:** Monday, September 12, 2022 6:43:58 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Joseph Wilkicki. I reside at 12 Royal Ct, Cumberland, RI 02864. I am a lifelong resident of Rhode Island and a homeowner in Cumberland for almost ten years.

I am writing to strongly disapprove of the electrical rate increase proposed by RI Energy. This rate change comes after empty assurances that the sale of National Grid would benefit the citizens of Rhode Island.

This rate hike, coming so soon after the sale has closed, exposes those assurances as the lies that they were. Global economic conditions were well known before this deal; we already had been experiencing the ruinous affects of inflation on every day necessities. RI Energy knew this before the sale and made their false promises anyway.

The commission should deny these hikes and lower the allowed profit for this company from 10% back to the previous 6%.

There is no viable lower cost alternative provider to RI Energy for power. The alternatives listed by RI Energy on their web site all charge more.

The commission should also be using their power to help make existing programs for alternative energy easier to use and more transparent for Rhode Islanders. As a result of these rate hikes, I've tried to add solar to my residence and encountered a maze of programs that are gatekept by solar vendors that push unfavorable deals with unclear financing and incentives. RI Energy provides no useful information on how to take advantage of clean energy programs beyond listing their existence. Much of the available information still references National Grid and is out of date. RI Energy is also passing the costs of these programs on to us as unclear fees in our bills.

RI Energy, and National Grid before them, should have realized the fragility of natural gas well before now and diversified their power generation mix. Where is the effect of wind turbines that appear so prominently in this state? Why are residents still restricted from generating as much solar power as they can afford on their homes?

Rhode Islanders are tired of being taken advantage of by utilities providing the most expensive services in the country with regulators who appear to be asleep at the switch. It's time to wake up and stop this money grab. It's time to force our utility to work in the public's interest to generate cheaper and cleaner power and live up to the promises they told the government that is supposed to be representing our interests.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Joseph Wilkicki



**From:** [Celeste Secrest Sorel](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change  
**Date:** Monday, September 12, 2022 3:26:21 PM

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I am submitting this comment to request the PUC deny the proposed rate hike by the Pennsylvania company PPL Energy Holdings subsidiary, Rhode Island Energy. This company acquired Narragansett Electric/National Grid with no say from residents and false assurances from officials that this was a positive development for the state, only to immediately announce the highest rate hike we have ever seen. Rhode Island residents have only one choice for electric service and seem to be given no choice but to take this cost burden from a greedy power conglomerate . With this year's much higher prices for food, gas and oil, so many of us are already stretched as thin as can be as it is. Payment plans will not keep us from accumulating massive electric bills to keep heat and lights on this winter. If this hike is approved by the PUC, this winter will be a disastrous one for our state. Low income assistance may help some but not nearly enough and these costs are so high for anyone above poverty level that this rate will crush way too many hard working RI families.

I, and many others have been lying awake with anxiety and dread since hearing this announcement. I turn off all the lights, unplug everything, and limit appliances as much as I can and can barely keep up with my electric bill already. No amount of "pre-planning" suggested by Rhode Island Energy can prepare my family for this huge increase because we don't have any extra income to save up for it. We cannot afford to pay to make sure PPL profits for it's shareholders. Please deny this rate hike to avoid thousands of Rhode Islanders from being cold and broke this winter.

Thank you for your attention,  
Celeste Sorel  
Westerly, RI

**From:** [Marie Hennedy](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change  
**Date:** Monday, September 12, 2022 3:08:30 PM

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Why just hold our breath while awaiting this huge rate hike's guaranteed tsunami?  
Why moreover, go on impotently punishing people for being poor?  
**Now more than ever our PUC needs to enact PIPP: the Percentage of Income Payment Plan.**

How well I remember one lady's response when I explained to her years ago that she'd be expected to pay each month a reasonable percentage of her then-\$600/month income:  
**"I could PAY that! I could budget it!"**

**This 50% rate-hike offers RI the opportunity** to replace our long-impracticable-because-unpayable-system of meager rate reductions, summer moratoriums and inhumane shutoffs. For less than the price of a cup of coffee each month, I'll gladly help to enable human dignity in Rhode Island.

(What a great time to serve on RI's Public Utilities Commission!)

Respectfully yours,  
Marie C. Hennedy, Ph.D.

11 Shenandoah Road  
Warwick, RI 02886

401-368-1922  
[mhennedy2@gmail.com](mailto:mhennedy2@gmail.com)

**From:** [Sean Lordan](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Cc:** [georgewileycenterri@gmail.com](mailto:georgewileycenterri@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 1:12:04 PM

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My question is simple, why are there not more public hearings like this during hours outside of the standard 9-5 working hours? This leaves out those most affected by this and seems to be done purposely to keep a majority of voices silenced. The reasons against the rate hike are so obvious that the powers that be seem to feel it necessary to keep as many people out of the conversation as possible in order to swiftly get their rate hike and line pockets of certain people. This comes down to profit over people and I'm not sure how the people proposing this rate hike can sleep at night, it's disgusting. I can only hope they form some sort of moral compass before another winter where households cannot afford their own heat and electricity is upon us.

**From:** [Nicholas Cooper](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:34:34 PM

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To whom it may concern,

The rate increases proposed by RI Energy are a terrible deal for our state. They will undoubtedly put an outsized amount of financial stress on everyday working class Rhode Islanders already struggling with the rising costs of rent, groceries, and other everyday necessities.

In addition, allowing this kind of rate increase to a company that just paid \$3.8 billion for the right to provide energy in the state not only reeks of a corporate handout, it also sets a precedent of RI allowing PPL to further drastically raise rates in the future. This multi-billion dollar, for-profit corporation is looking to maximize profits, not provide better service for Rhode Island, and as a state, it's our government's responsibility to hold them accountable.

Concerned,

Nicholas Cooper

**From:** [david risi](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 12:00:24 AM

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The mission statement of your agency, specifically mentioned on your website includes the line "ensure just and reasonable rates". How can you claim to be just or reasonable when our economy is entering a recession, over a million people have died, and our people are struggling day to day and you want to raise the bills of the people who are barely surviving as is. It is not "just" to prey on people who are trapped in a system they have no voice in. It is not "reasonable" to expect that people can just "get more money". If you've ever tried to budget a household in America you know how much of a knife's edge that can be. If you HAVEN'T had to do that let me tell you, its damn difficult. Public utilities have a DUTY to serve the PUBLIC as best they can. Consolidation of corporate assets has NEVER resulted in cheaper costs to a consumer or BETTER service. Think of all the retirees who live on fixed income and can't physically afford to just "work more".

-David Risi  
Warren, RI.

**From:** [Joe Riddle](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:08:19 PM

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Hello -

I'm writing to express my vehement opposition to the *fifty percent* rate hike that RI Energy is attempting to force upon customers across the state.

Demand for gas and electricity are inelastic - when the price goes up, people can't magically start using less of it to compensate. In fact, with more people working from home since the start of the COVID pandemic, household energy consumption has increased. My utility bill already went up by 50% because my wife and I have to heat and cool the house and power a computer for an additional 8 hours a day now that our offices are closed. The energy company loves to parrot their feel-good tips for using less energy, most often "wear more layers inside during the winter!" I am a chemical engineer whose primary job is equipment design and drafting on the computer. I also have Reynaud's syndrome. Without heat my fingers get numb, stiff, and painful. I can't wear warm gloves and type on a computer. I must heat my desk area in order to function and make money for myself.

I am by no means rich but I am far more financially stable than the average Rhode Islander. Utility rate hikes like this affect low income households even more, as they have less room in their budget to redirect towards lining the pockets of an energy conglomerate who is seeking to profit off an economic downturn. Affordable utilities are a human right and a rate increase of this magnitude is unconscionable during times like these.

I strongly urge you to reject this rate hike on behalf of the citizens of this state. See you on Friday.

-Joe Riddle



**From:** [Amber Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments\\_PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Hike  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 10:44:38 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to urge you to deny Rhode Island Energy's proposed rate hike. Allowing this rate hike would destroy families and our economy. People are already overburdened after the pandemic and now dealing with inflation and in many cities and towns increases in taxes. When families struggle to get by they don't spend on supporting local restaurants or taking their children to the Halloween Jack-o-Lantern Spectacular. Small businesses also recovering from the pandemic won't be able to afford the rate hike. Rhode Island Energy said they would lower rates for Rhode Islanders but instead they want to impose the largest increase we've ever had. I am a single income household and these rates will be difficult to meet.

Please do not allow RI Energy to increase our rates during the coldest months of the year.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Amber Schmidt  
30 Rock Ave  
Warwick, RI 02889

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](#)

**From:** [My Business](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy increase  
**Date:** Monday, September 12, 2022 2:16:07 PM

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Hello , I am writing to you about the electricity and gas increas coming to rhode islanders. There are many low income families [here.it \[here.it\]](#) would not be fair to increase the same prices to everyone. Besided that I don't think a 50 dollar increase is justified. We need to consider our single parents,elderly and low income with comprise most of this state. Thank you.

As I will be one of those people soon.

Mrs E. DeLeon



**From:** [Joe Riddle](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:08:19 PM

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Hello -

I'm writing to express my vehement opposition to the *fifty percent* rate hike that RI Energy is attempting to force upon customers across the state.

Demand for gas and electricity are inelastic - when the price goes up, people can't magically start using less of it to compensate. In fact, with more people working from home since the start of the COVID pandemic, household energy consumption has increased. My utility bill already went up by 50% because my wife and I have to heat and cool the house and power a computer for an additional 8 hours a day now that our offices are closed. The energy company loves to parrot their feel-good tips for using less energy, most often "wear more layers inside during the winter!" I am a chemical engineer whose primary job is equipment design and drafting on the computer. I also have Reynaud's syndrome. Without heat my fingers get numb, stiff, and painful. I can't wear warm gloves and type on a computer. I must heat my desk area in order to function and make money for myself.

I am by no means rich but I am far more financially stable than the average Rhode Islander. Utility rate hikes like this affect low income households even more, as they have less room in their budget to redirect towards lining the pockets of an energy conglomerate who is seeking to profit off an economic downturn. Affordable utilities are a human right and a rate increase of this magnitude is unconscionable during times like these.

I strongly urge you to reject this rate hike on behalf of the citizens of this state. See you on Friday.

-Joe Riddle

**From:** [Michele Seyler](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Rate Hikes  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 5:26:51 PM

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Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:Mail[go.microsoft.com]) for Windows

I am distressed to learn of the huge rate hikes scheduled by Rhode Island Energy. Electricity – 47% !? Natural Gas – 15% !? There is no cap on how much these people who bought out National Grid less than a year ago can raise our rates?! Unconscionable.

Some people are on fixed incomes. Some people already live below the poverty line or are barely making it due to the embarrassing minimum wage. How are people supposed to find the money?

We, the consumers, are already struggling due to inflation of goods and services - inflation due to consolidation. There's no real competition anymore. Energy, food etc is controlled by fewer and fewer corporations, and we are held hostage to the stockholder approach rather than stakeholder approach of the past (read Robert Reich) Our purpose, apparently is to ensure the exorbitant salaries of CEOs and returns of investors. Community be damned.

There's no competition and therefore no incentive for RIE to be reasonable. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I am unaware of any other source I can switch to for my electricity and heating needs. If we the public have no options, then public utilities might as well be run by the government. It's preferable to being gouged by profit based institutions.

We were told a few years ago that we should all switch to natural gas as a measure for cost savings and climate change mitigation as we segue to renewable energy. That apparently was untrue.

"Free market", it seems, only applies to the corporations and the oligarchs that run them.

Please do not allow this travesty to occur.

Michele Seyler

**From:** [Steve Conti](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Rates  
**Date:** Saturday, September 10, 2022 7:54:08 AM

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Rate hikes should be tied to profit. Even without the rate hike, how many millions of dollars of profit will the utility make? Steve Conti.

**From:** [Arnav Adhikari](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments\\_PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Reject Utilities Hike!  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 12:29:08 PM

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Hello,

As a concerned resident of Providence, RI, I sincerely urge you to reject Rhode Island Energy's unreasonable rate increases. Working Rhode Islanders should not bear the brunt of rising energy costs, especially when Rhode Island Energy was recently purchased from National Grid for \$3.8 billion. Rhode Island's Energy's new owners can and should absorb their fair share of increased energy prices.

Thank you,  
Arnav Adhikari

**From:** [Matt LaBranche](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments\\_PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Reject the rate hike! Please!  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 8:27:50 PM

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Please do the right thing and save my family from not being able to use electricity in the winter

Reject this rate hike!  
47%? Are you kidding me? My  
\$200 monthly bill will now be \$300 for the same service.

All because a company bought another and wants us to pay for it?  
For Pete's sake, reject this!

**From:** [Matt LaBranche](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Reject the rate hike  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 8:26:44 PM

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Please do the right thing and save my family from not being able to use electricity in the winter

Reject this rate hike!  
47%? Are you kidding me? My  
\$200 monthly bill will now be \$300 for the same service.

All because a company bought another and wants us to pay for it?  
For Pete's sake, reject this!

**From:** [Jessica Kilgore](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Reject the rate hikes  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 9:24:39 PM

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Dear Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing today to ask that you reject Rhode Island Energy's plan to raise our utility costs by 47%. When my husband told me of the letter he had received from Rhode Island Energy regarding this rate hike, I was shocked. We recently bought a house in Providence, our first time as homeowners, and the cost of utilities has already been a challenge to our experience. Considering the almost 50% increase in our costs feels impossible. We love Rhode Island and are so glad we live here, but in an already challenging year because of the multiple impacts of inflation, this utility rate increase is truly outrageous.

Please keep Rhode Island residents in the forefront of your minds as you consider this proposed rate increase at Friday's hearing.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Kilgore  
40 Zella St  
Providence, RI

**From:** [M Melo](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Stop the fleecing  
**Date:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 9:28:14 AM

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We cannot afford a 47% rate hike. You will end up with a lot of homelessness on your hands.  
Stop with the shareholder coddling and screwing the people of this state.

Myrian Melo  
Concerned resident



**From:** [Adelina Burgo](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments\\_PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : This is gone be problem for the families we are able to pay it, is going to make us have electricity or food in our table to feed our kids is soo upsetting that we make a minimum wage trying to pay high cost rent now to pay electricity thi...  
**Date:** Monday, September 5, 2022 2:45:25 PM

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**From:** [barry schiller](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : a public comment on proposed utility rate hikes  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 12:46:23 PM

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with world energy prices spiking, I am a concerned RI homeowner facing much higher electricity and heating costs this winter. RI cannot lower world energy prices, but we can restructure the rates to better provide reasonably priced basic service for all, help low income people maintain service, while encouraging and rewarding conservation.

To do this I suggest inverting the rates for electricity so that they are low for the first few hundred kwh used each month, then go much higher for additional consumption beyond that level. Such a "lifeline" structure can keep the utility whole while helping the environment, those that make an effort to conserve, and the poor, as long as they try to conserve too. I've heard about a "percentage of income" plan that as I see it, does not reward or encourage conservation, and will be difficult to administer as incomes change and with the "underground" economy where many hide income.

Thank you for considering my views

Barry Schiller  
North Providence  
[bschillert358@gmail.com](mailto:bschillert358@gmail.com)

**From:** [colleenk1@aol.com](mailto:colleenk1@aol.com)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : proposed rate hikes RI Energy  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 7:31:52 PM

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I am writing as a lifelong Rhode Islander who has been loyal to this state--RI Energy should NOT be allowed to sweep into the state and expect to raise our energy bills by an exorbitant amount!! I have had more power outages in the past several months than I have had in the past several YEARS before RI Energy took over--and they expect me and others to pay more??

People are already hurting financially, whether from the pandemic, inflation, stagnating wages, or other reasons. This ridiculously high rate hike will put too many people in the dark and in the cold. The PUC must serve the residents of this state and refuse this rate hike!

Thank you,

Colleen Scott  
8 Salisbury Ct  
Cranston, RI 02905

**From:** [Brisson, Audrey \(DPUC\)](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Elizabeth Barker  
**Date:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:14:35 PM

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Elizabeth Barker  
39 Almy Avenue  
Warren, RI 02885  
401-245-3198

She calls herself a dinosaur as she is 90 years old on a fixed income and does not email, but wanted her name included as being opposed to the rate increase.

*Sincerely,*

*Audrey Brisson*  
*Consumer Agent*  
[Audrey.brisson@dpuc.ri.gov](mailto:Audrey.brisson@dpuc.ri.gov)  
*Phone: 401-780-2113*  
*Fax: 401-941-4885*

**From:** [Gerwatowski, Ronald \(PUC\)](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] :  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 6, 2022 9:53:24 AM

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**From:** Michael Franklin <mikefranklin2.mf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 5, 2022 9:22 AM  
**To:** Gerwatowski, Ronald (PUC) <Ronald.Gerwatowski@puc.ri.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] :

Please don't raise rates. Inflation is killing seniors so don't contribute to the situation. PUC needs to stop raising rates. Please!

**From:** [Gerwatowski, Ronald \(PUC\)](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] : Can't even afford gas or food or to Live!  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 6, 2022 9:52:55 AM

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**From:** bpgpaul@verizon.net <bpgpaul@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 5, 2022 3:44 PM  
**To:** Gerwatowski, Ronald (PUC) <Ronald.Gerwatowski@puc.ri.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Can't even afford gas or food or to Live!

Hello,

I'm a hard worker, work 2 jobs, put my child through college. How do you expect us to live. Won't be able to afford, food, oil, gas & utilities. Please think about the single parents out that who live paycheck to paycheck & no longer is there a middle class??? Please help spend money on what is really needed, to the American People!

It's tough & getting tougher each & every day. Can't RI help with RI residents? Why can't the govt. step in & help & give money to not just not the poor but to all those other hardworking people who are scraping by here in RI. There is no longer a middle class, it's either rich or poor. We are getting poorer by the day!

Please help RI residents!!!

Thank you.

Sincere regards,

Pat Paul

**From:** [Gerwatowski, Ronald \(PUC\)](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] : Fw: Rate Hike  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 6, 2022 9:55:29 AM

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**From:** Mary McDonough <mem524@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 5, 2022 4:29 PM  
**To:** Gerwatowski, Ronald (PUC) <Ronald.Gerwatowski@puc.ri.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Fw: Rate Hike

Dear Mr Gerwatowski,

I would like to know why the PUC always votes for an increase in our electricity. My last bill went from \$194 to \$305. And now I hear it will be going up again. Can you please tell me how a husband and wife are going to be able to afford these increases when we are on a fixed income. I'm beginning to think that RI isn't the place to live and I have lived here all my life.

M McDonough

[mem524@yahoo.com](mailto:mem524@yahoo.com)

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone \[overview.mail.yahoo.com\]](#)

**From:** [Gerwatowski, Ronald \(PUC\)](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] : Utility Price Hikes  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 6, 2022 9:52:31 AM

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**From:** brat <inservice5765@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 5, 2022 7:13 PM  
**To:** Gerwatowski, Ronald (PUC) <Ronald.Gerwatowski@puc.ri.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Utility Price Hikes

I am a US Citizen and unfortunately was born, raised and stilling in RI. RI has always been money hungry, with bribes and kickbacks at the state & government levels. You allow the utility companies raise our prices while we are in a recession going into a depression soon. How can you expect us to afford this ? Did you get a kickbacks for it ? Have you no conscience for the poor & down trotting?

You really should re think doing this to us every year especially after RI home owners were ripped off from National Grid and we are owed Billions which we expect to recieve. You are responsible for getting us our money back from National Grid because we will not allow you to sweep it under the rug as you & your Cronies always do.

Remember 1 thing, there is a Heaven & Hell. Where will you go for eternity when you die ?

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](#)



**From:** [Anthony, Abigail \(PUC\)](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] : electric rate increase  
**Date:** Thursday, August 11, 2022 11:57:29 AM

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**From:** Colleen K <ckennedydaniels@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2022 11:41 AM  
**To:** Gerwatowski, Ronald (PUC) <Ronald.Gerwatowski@puc.ri.gov>; herb.desimone@puc.ri.gov; paul.roberti@puc.ri.gov; Anthony, Abigail (PUC) <Abigail.Anthony@puc.ri.gov>; Revens, John (PUC) <John.Revens@puc.ri.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : electric rate increase

good morning,

The proposed rates are unacceptable and I hope you deny RI Energy the rate increase. This increase will hurt more than the lower income people; it will cause the middle class to struggle even more than they are now. Please deny this increase!

Thank you

-Colleen

**From:** [Gerwatowski, Ronald \(PUC\)](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] : rate hike  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 6, 2022 9:55:13 AM

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**From:** mary silva <silvagracey@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 4, 2022 9:42 AM  
**To:** Gerwatowski, Ronald (PUC) <Ronald.Gerwatowski@puc.ri.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : rate hike

At 72 yrs old I can't afford this hike.

Mary Silva

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

**From:** [Matthew Golderese](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Docket # 4978 - Constituent Feedback  
**Date:** Friday, July 22, 2022 3:10:40 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed rate increase by RI Energy. Please forward to the commissioners and/or relevant decision makers.

I recognize that both inflation and the Russia/Ukraine war have impacted energy prices. Corporations must advocate to pass costs onto the consumer, but consumers must also advocate for themselves and push back.

RI Energy promised Rhode Island citizens no rate hikes for 3 years. They intentionally disguised this initiative by claiming "no base rate hikes" allowing this loophole. This is a clear indication of bad-faith negotiation.

This proposed rate would bring the average cost of electricity to 30.7k/w, sending the cost of energy in Rhode Island soaring. For comparison, Hawaii, an isolated tropical island, has a cost of 32k/w. If RI Energy needs to recoup costs, they can lower the compensation of their executive staff.

As a fellow public servant, I implore you to take a stand for the constituents you serve. Our friends and families are already struggling with the extreme rise of the cost of living. As a steward for the taxpayer, you must oppose this rate hike.

I can be reached at (401) 206-6032 if further detail or comment is needed.

**From:** [Lily Fontaine](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Docket # 4978 - Constituent Feedback  
**Date:** Friday, July 22, 2022 3:18:41 PM

---

Hello,

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed rate increase by RI Energy. Please forward to the commissioners and/or relevant decision makers.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** [Rob Riffe](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Last Resort Service Filing  
**Date:** Sunday, July 24, 2022 4:56:06 PM

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Hello,

The upcoming rate hikes are a joke. Why is it that every time these utility give themselves a raise, it's supported by policy makers. Can we try and put the "public" back in Public Utilities Commission?

EVERYTHING is up in cost, and many have reached their breaking point. So what's the goal? Bankrupt every Rhode Islander? Force us into ridiculous solar packages with \$15k minimum start up costs?

Enough is enough. Stop this madness

**From:** [C Neff](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Last Resort Service Filing  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 7:01:33 PM

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I have been a resident of Rhode Island 34 years now. Until this past month, I have never thought of moving away from this state that I love so much. The proposed rate hikes by RI Energy would cause an extreme financial burden to Rhode Islanders. The already high rates of National Grid have forced me to set my heat to a maximum of 62 degrees every fall & winter so that I could pay my electric bills.

People of this state are already faced with some of the highest taxes in the country, and now gas and food prices are soaring nationally. Paying even more for electricity will push many people into untenable living situations or homelessness. I urge the Commission to do the right thing for the residents of Rhode Island by opposing the proposed electricity rate hikes.

Sincerely,  
Carol M Neff

**From:** [C Neff](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Last Resort Service Filing  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 7:01:33 PM

---

I have been a resident of Rhode Island 34 years now. Until this past month, I have never thought of moving away from this state that I love so much. The proposed rate hikes by RI Energy would cause an extreme financial burden to Rhode Islanders. The already high rates of National Grid have forced me to set my heat to a maximum of 62 degrees every fall & winter so that I could pay my electric bills.

People of this state are already faced with some of the highest taxes in the country, and now gas and food prices are soaring nationally. Paying even more for electricity will push many people into untenable living situations or homelessness. I urge the Commission to do the right thing for the residents of Rhode Island by opposing the proposed electricity rate hikes.

Sincerely,  
Carol M Neff



**From:** [Anna Spodnik](#)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Increase Better Not Happen  
**Date:** Friday, July 22, 2022 4:48:45 PM

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To whomever will listen,

We have had enough. The people of Rhode Island trusted you to assure us that the selling of NationalGrid was not going to make our lives worse and here we are.

How dare the PUC allow this company to slide in without caring that they are going to make many Rhode Islanders choose between their electric bill and food for their children!!!

How does this happen with the approval of a governing body that was obviously duped by a corporation that claims they make no money???

No base rate increase, just a whopping increase to delivery???? And nobody paid attention???

This country has enough struggles and the PUC allowed this to happen through sheer stupidity!!!

I am a long time resident and taxpayer in Rhode Island and this needs to be stopped and it needs to stop NOW!!!!

I want answers. The people of RI want answers and they better include that the PUC has not approved this increase.

Enough is enough!!!

Anna Spodnik  
25 Carpenter Court  
West Warwick, RI 02893  
401-823-1606

**From:** [magholm@aol.com](mailto:magholm@aol.com)  
**To:** [Massaro, Luly \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy rate hike  
**Date:** Saturday, July 23, 2022 2:22:55 PM

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I object strongly to the proposed \$50+ a month rate hike in electricity by RI Energy. This is price gouging in the time of high inflation. They had promised not to increase the rates. And Rhode Islanders do not really have many options. Those of us on fixed incomes, low incomes, or renters will be forced to choose between lights on, heating in some cases, internet access for homework, and food, medical and other necessities. Please deny this rate hike.

Margaret Holmes  
50 Willett Ave  
Riverside RI 02915