

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Joanne Rich <joanneprich@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:04 AM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Limit RI Energy Rate Hike

Dear PUC,

I see your role as being guardians of public services to all Rhode Islanders, especially those who are most vulnerable. RI Energy's proposed rate hikes will be disastrous for low income folks who are already struggling with inflation.

If RI Energy had the money to buy National Grid they have the money to absorb costs from rising prices and put people before profits. Please limit their profit margin and don't approve the rate hike.

Additionally, I support a PPIP, to help low income households from avoiding shut offs. As an educator, shut offs disproportionately harm kids and seniors. Kids need basics like warmth and electricity to do well in school and not get sucked into the cycle of poverty.

You have the opportunity to do the right thing for the most vulnerable in RI. I hope you will.

Joanne Rich
(401) 497-6996

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Kelly Reiss <ailuropoda8@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:26 AM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Hike

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed rate hike by RI Energy. As the company has a monopoly on electricity in my area I have no choice but to pay whatever cost they charge, but RI Energy said it would not raise rates for several years after acquiring National Grid, yet months later here we are. To reiterate, I strongly oppose the proposed rate hike by RI Energy.

Kelly Reiss
Barrington, RI

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Courtney Bickerton <courtneybickerton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 12:34 PM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Electricity Increase

In regards to the request from RI energy coming before the board on Friday, I hope that this is under immense review. We are living in a time where gas, groceries, taxes, etc are all being increased and making it almost impossible to enjoy everyday life. This increase that could cause \$50-\$75 increase per household is appalling. I work a full time job, make descent money, and now I am just living paycheck to paycheck due to the increased cost of living and for months, I have been terrified about how I am even going to afford oil this winter now to have to worry about electricity is awful. This is another way a company is taking advantage of these trying times. I hope you realize how this increase would affect the average household and the detriment this would cause for all of us. Please deny this increase.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Angel <alop1983@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 3:46 PM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change
Attachments: 9_15_2022 PUC Rate change Hearing.pdf

September 15, 2022

Good Afternoon,

I am writing today to submit my comments about the RI Energy Rate Change. Please find them attached.

Thanks,

Angel Lopez
41 Dorchester Avenue FL3
Providence, RI 02909
(401) 419-8082

Sent with [Proton Mail \[proton.me\]](https://proton.me) secure email.

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Shanon Dilloway <shan.dilloway@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:20 PM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Rate Hikes

The proposed rate hike is enormous and completely unacceptable. This sounds like a story from, "The Onion" - New power company is allowed to buy old power company with contingencies worked out with AG. Pays 5.6 BILLION, but months later cries poor and warns of electric bills going up 50%. Talk about a fleecing.

I hope PUC doesn't let these carpet baggers enrich themselves off the backs of all RIers including PUC members and their families.

Sincerely,

Shanon Dilloway

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Beauchamp, Lauren <959742@Lifespan.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:46 PM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : RHODE ISLAND ENERGY

I am emailing on behalf of the hearing Sept, 16th regarding the energy bill increase this coming October.

I am emailing to remark on how devastating this would be not only to me but the state as a whole. As a registered nurse after this pandemic, I can say just about everything in life has become more expensive. Before this inflation my patients already struggled with their utilities, frequently becoming ill due to lack of heat/AC, access.

This would only affect the most vulnerable populations in Rhode island and would be a grotesque use of monopolizing power and money

Keep Rhode islanders in Rhode island by allowing them the oppurtunity to afford electricity. THERE IS NO REASON TO INCREASE SOMETHINIG 47% IN A YEAR.

This is a sensitive time; we are at a breaking point and this is the last thing people in Rhode Island need.

Please hear the people when they tell all the unsafe repercussions this discission would elicit.

Thank you for your time,

Lauren Beauchamp

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Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Peter Nightingale <nigh@pobox.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:11 PM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change
Attachments: RateIncreases-9-16-2022.pdf

Please find attached my testimony in opposition to proposed energy rate increase.

Yours sincerely,
—Peter Nightingale

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[Peter Nightingale \[phys.uri.edu\]](mailto:pnighting@phys.uri.edu)
Department of Physics, East Hall
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881, USA

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Alexa Barriga <alexa@sistafireri.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:49 PM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Cc: Ditra Edwards
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change
Attachments: SISTA Fire Comment to RI Public Utilities Commission .pdf

Dear Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission,

Please see the attached document for SISTA Fire's written comment for the hearing tomorrow regarding Rhode Island Energy electric and gas rate proposals.

Thank you,

--

Alexa Barriga (*they, them*)
Organizing Coordinator
[SISTA FIRE \[sistafireri.org\]](https://www.sistafireri.org)
Email: Alexa@sistafireri.org
Phone: (818) 912-0898

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Archana Ramanujam <archana.ramanujam.14@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 9:36 PM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change

Dear RI Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing regarding the proposed 47% increase in the price of electricity and 15% increase in the price of natural gas for consumers in Rhode Island effective October 1st, 2022.

This is an **absurd price increase** that will hurt working Rhode Islanders, to the benefit of Rhode Island Energy's owners. While the energy crisis may cause a certain increase in energy prices, we have [seen a pattern of windfall profits \[theguardian.com\]](#) in many energy companies worldwide profiting from the energy crisis, on the backs of working citizens. Indeed, PPL corporation, Rhode Island Energy's owner, registered second quarter profits in 2022 at a whopping [\\$119 million dollars \[abc27.com\]](#). They can clearly afford to absorb a mild increase in energy prices, instead of increasing electricity costs to Rhode Islanders by nearly 50%.

Rhode Island Energy should not increase their energy prices to Rhode Islanders this winter. Many will be without electricity, hot water, cookstoves and potentially heating otherwise.

Best wishes,
Archana Ramanujam
Rhode Island resident

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: John A Fazzino <johnfazzino@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 9:54 PM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Rate Hikes from RI Energy

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I'm well aware that RI Energy recently purchased National Grid for 3 Billion dollars. As well, as that they are requesting a rate hike to our electricity bills of 47%. This is so outrageous it seems incomprehensible that you would even consider this. They say it is because of the cost of energy going up. I thought that one condition of their purchase of National Grid was a promise that they would not raise rates and that they would be taking care of the residents of RI. This flies in the face of every single person in RI. They should, with their assets be able to absorb most of the increased costs of energy since they were able to pay as much as they did for National Grid.

Just to be clear, I stand fully against any rate increase in my electricity and my gas rates.

Sincerely,

John Fazzino
26 Bolton Ave.
Providence, RI 02908

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Yualanda King <yualanda@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:10 AM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Rhode Island Energy proposed rate increase

Dear Public Utilities Commission:

I am a resident of Rhode Island and a customer of Rhode Island Energy. I vehemently oppose this proposed 47% electric rate hike. This will cause undo pressure on the poor and working class citizens of this state as we will not be able to afford to pay our electric bills. Many of us work from home and this would result in our service being disconnected and our income and livelihood taken away.

Please do not approve such an unreasonable increase in the cost of electricity.

Thank You!

Yualanda King
718 Manton Avenue
Providence, Rhode Island 02909
561-714-6550

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Arthur Flanders <arthurflandersri@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 6:40 AM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Cc: georgewileycenterri@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Rate increases

My name is Arthur Flanders, and I've lived in the Silver Lake neighborhood of Providence for ten years.

In that time, as someone who is working-class, I've often struggled to pay my utility bills. I cannot tell you how many times I've had to shuffle my bills around, to decide which one I'll be late on this time. I cannot count the number of late notices and shut-off threats I've gotten. I've had to make difficult decisions, such as whether I'll pay for electricity or medication.

And I do not struggle nearly as much as some of my neighbors, especially those who have large families. I have stayed up many a night wondering how I'm going to keep my lights on. I cannot imagine the way that worry would compound if I had children. If I did, I know I'd have chosen electricity over medication more often than not. I wonder how many times I could have made that choice before it would have killed me. I wonder how many people in our community that decision has killed already.

That we put members of our community in this position is one of the most singularly shameful aspects of our culture. It is an indictment on the way the sick greed of capitalism has infiltrated the institutions that are supposedly here to benefit the common good.

Should this rate hike happen, I do not know what I will do to survive. Nor do I know what the rest of my community will do. To allow this hike is to sentence many to poverty, and some to death. Can this commission even continue to masquerade as one that serves our state once that happens?

I urge this commission to take every possible step to not only stand up to Rhode Island Energy, but to set an example for the other entities in this state. Stop the rate hike, stop all shutoffs, and implement a Percentage of Income Payment Plan. Better yet, help us work toward the publicly-owned utilities we deserve. This state is capable of providing for its people; it truly is. But only if officials like yourselves do their jobs.

--

Arthur Flanders

Candidate for RI State Senate District 7

(401) 400-0314

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/friends-of-arthur-1> [secure.actblue.com]

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: drake patten <hurricanehillfarm@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:20 AM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : No to rate hikes

I write to ask you to turn down this request for a rate hike-for a number of reasons-one of which is this: the utility companies have been profitable for a long time-yet have and continue to allow the infrastructure to fail and for our grid to be inadequate to accept the (also money making) renewables inputs. Those decisions are about a company's ability to manage itself-and bad decisions should not be the public's responsibility. We have borne rate hikes for decades-and yet, the system has not been improved. Time for the PUC to hold the company/ies to a higher standard and protect the public from being the providers' cash cow.

Thank you,

Drake Patten
Hurricane Hill Farm

Selling Heritage Goods
Hosting Farm Events
Raising Leicester Longwool Sheep

www.hurricanehillfarm.com [hurricanehillfarm.com]

Cranston RI
401 932 4884

Shave 'em to Save 'em!

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Kennedy, Jennifer <jennifer_kennedy@brown.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:55 AM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Cc: GeorgeWileyCenter@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : No to utility rate increase!

Hello,

I'm writing to oppose the energy rate increase. No one can afford this!

Utility companies are making a healthy profit every year, while ordinary people's salaries cannot keep pace with inflation. Many salaries were frozen during the pandemic! I myself received a 2.75% cost of living increase this year while inflation hovers above 8%

Please do the right thing and reject this increase.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kennedy

Penn St.

Providence



Jennifer Kennedy
Senior Library Specialist
Rockefeller Library
jennifer_kennedy@brown.edu

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: sydlo68jr@aol.com
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 8:56 AM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : SUBJECT: RI Energy Rate Change.

good morning

this rate hike is hitting working families the hardest, the ones who do not qualify for assistance are going to be forced to make hard choices this year.

nothing is done to protect us as citizens against this hike.

My electric bill was 54.00 the deliver charge was 84.30 , explain to me how this is even legal ?

while i know no matter what you will approve the hike, know that many working people will suffer because of your failure to act.

people will get their gas and electric turned off when its most needed in the winter..

think about that

sincerely

Maribeth Simcock
Riverside RI

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Nicky Warner <goguster@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 10:28 AM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Electric hikes

You're gouging everyone that lives here- plain and simple. Our bill has just about doubled since you took over. This is pure greed and nothing else. The help for Rhode Islanders is basically help for those who are homeless at this point and your "tips" are a slap in the face. My family is at the point of looking to move out of state because we can't even afford a family at this point and we both have good paying jobs. Sad!

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

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Jennifer Peters <jenniferashleypeters@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 9:56 AM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : RI Energy Rate Change

This proposed increase amount is unacceptable. I'm already paying \$200-\$240/month, which is way too high in the first place and I have oil. Please do not allow this to go forward. Many will not be able to afford this.

Thank you,

Jennifer Peters
70 Coomer Ave, Warren

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Ryan Wright <ryanmeehanwright@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 9:35 AM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : RI ENERGY RATE CHANGE

Dear PUC Committee Members,

I am a lifelong Rhode Islander. I want this State and the citizens to thrive. This current rate hike will be devastating to the people of our State. Citizens living below the poverty line through the middle class will be hurt in the wallet even more now with the price of everyday goods going up. We also have an aging population who are already on a fixed income. This will cause harm to them. To add a rate hike this drastic is quite shocking. I implore you to do the right thing for all citizens of Rhode Island and vote NO on this rate hike.

Respectfully,
Ryan M. Wright
Resident of Warwick

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Sent by my iPhone

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Marlis P <mapayamps@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 11:37 AM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Rate increases

Members of the PUC,

My name is Marlis Payamps. I live and work in Providence. I am writing today to voice my concerns and Reject these proposed rate hikes for electric and gas by RI Energy. In the past couple of years, due to mismanagement of the covid crisis residents have been forced to deal with changes being influenced by the big players- politicians and corporations. The people and their concerns, overlooked with minimum support from our political leaders who are looking to bandaid this current issue by throwing limited funds to help lessen the current financial burden on consumers, while funding for profit corporations. McGee's plan is not a solution in these times. Inflation and this recession have caused major cost increases in daily basic needs already as it is while incomes have remained stagnant.

As you already know, rent has been increasing rapidly as RI gets top spot in national rent increases. \$400+ rent increases from one month to another. I've worked as a community support specialist assisting low income and the disabled in Providence and Woonsocket RI. Most who have struggled with living off their limited income. Struggling working families and single persons who still are not making enough of a living wage to make ends meet and are living paycheck to paycheck. People who are medically needy and who can not afford to go without electricity to run life saving machines.

People are afraid of what is to come in the next year. And those who are not aware, will become aware when they start getting bills in a few weeks and become delinquent in payment when they have to choose between food, rent and utilities. Current systems are not working. Changes need to be made to decrease these profit margin promises to these corporations.

As the public utilities commission, we are counting on you all to do what is right for the right reasons for the residents of RI, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Thank you.

Marlis Payamps

Massaro, Luly (PUC)

From: Jordan Goyette <goyettejordan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 10:41 AM
To: PublicComments, PUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Rhode Island Energy rate hikes

Dear PUC chair & members,

I write to you today to urge you to strongly reject the proposed utility rate hikes by the new monopoly company RI Energy. Even though they had the assets to acquire National Grid for over \$3 billion dollars, RI energy is now asking ratepayers to completely absorb a nearly 50% rate increase to their utility bills-right as we head into another rough Rhode Island winter. Make no mistake, people will freeze to death because of these rate hikes. On top of inflation for everything else, I have heard personally from people who will not be able to absorb this increase. RI Energy's grid will absolutely kill people this winter if you do not require the utility to absorb the cost themselves.

In addition, the Commission should also decrease the utility's profit margin, from 10% to 6%, begin developing a PIPP program for low-income ratepayers, and immediately disburse the \$38 million in bill credits it promised it would distribute among middle-to-low income ratepayers. Please do the right thing and reject the utility's greed that will murder people this winter.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Jordan Goyette
Warwick, RI 02886

Sent from my iPhone