

2018 -- H 8003

LC005269

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT IN NATIONAL GRID FOR ITS INCREASING RATES AND SERVICE CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDING THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENERGY DISTRIBUTION BE TRANSFERRED TO NOT-FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Regunberg, Carson, Donovan, Casimiro, and Vella-Wilkinson

Date Introduced: March 28, 2018

Referred To: House Corporations

1 WHEREAS, National Grid has filed rate increases for supplying energy to Rhode
2 Islanders year after year, independent of the required costs of the energy generation; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite these increased costs, National Grid's service has continued to cause
4 concerns in numerous communities with power outages that are too frequent and too sustained;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Despite repeated efforts from this body and the Public Utilities
7 Commission, National Grid continues to disconnect service to low-income Rhode Islanders from
8 utilities services that are necessary for the fulfillment of a dignified life, solely based on an
9 inability to pay these escalating rates; and

10 WHEREAS, Evidence shows that customers of publicly-owned utilities pay thirteen
11 percent (13%) less on average than customers of shareholder-owned utilities and have a far
12 greater say in how said utilities are operated; and

13 WHEREAS, There is evidence that publicly-owned utilities are more accountable to their
14 customers and make it easier to integrate more clean, renewable energy into a utility's portfolio;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, That these high costs and low benefits are fundamentally connected to the
17 privately-owned corporate monopoly utility model that allows for-profit corporations to extract
18 profit from services that no individual can do without; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and

1 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes local efforts, such as the Pascoag Utility District, to
2 provide publicly-owned energy generation and/or distribution outside of this for-profit model, and
3 encourages other local governments to establish similar nonprofit entities in ways that do not
4 conflict with the established oversight authority of the Public Utilities Commission; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That this House hereby finds that the state government of Rhode Island
7 should also immediately begin the process of moving the distribution of energy away from a
8 privately-owned for-profit model to a publicly-owned nonprofit model so as to increase
9 accountability and transparency between our communities and our utilities; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of
12 the State of Rhode Island, and Margaret Curran, Chairperson of the Rhode Island Public Utilities
13 Commission.

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