

## Massaro, Luly (PUC)

---

**From:** Jennifer Kreft <jennifer.kreft@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2017 8:07 PM  
**To:** Massaro, Luly (PUC)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Support of affordable utility reinstatement

I am writing in support of the George Wiley Center's proposal for more affordable reconnection of utility services for Rhode Islanders. As a single mom I know how frustrating it can be to have to make hard choices between food and clothes for your kids and keeping the heat on. I hope that you will support families by helping them get through another winter.

Jennifer Pearce

## Massaro, Luly (PUC)

---

**From:** Cris Monteiro <shichangpu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2017 2:25 PM  
**To:** Massaro, Luly (PUC)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Bring Back PIPP for Rhode Islanders

Dear Luly Massaro,

As a citizen, neighbor, business owner, and stakeholder in the health, stability, and happiness of the other people of Rhode Island I urge the PUC to consider and adopt the recommendations made by the George Wiley Center regarding utility service shutoffs and restoration.

Let's face it, when electrical shutoffs due to hurricanes or other storms, happen we all get a taste of how much more difficult life is when our basic needs for light, warmth, and food are impacted. Now imagine that this isn't just a temporary inconvenience caused by a weather event beyond our control, but something that is acted out upon some of our most marginalized neighbors. Poverty, like a force of nature, wreaks havoc on people's lives. But we shouldn't wait for a disaster to strike before we extend the help we can for people who need it most.

If the PUC, acting on behalf of the public, all of the public, were to bring back a lower deposit amount, proportional to the utility account holder's income, this would help people meet their basic needs. The timing for this is as crucial as we approach winter, as summer, as needs for heating or cooling, and retarding food spoilage, and having light are basic needs year round.

Thank you,

Cris Monteiro

Punk at Providence Community Acupuncture  
1055 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
401-272-2288

## Massaro, Luly (PUC)

---

**From:** Kyle Stumpe <stumpekyle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2017 10:49 AM  
**To:** Massaro, Luly (PUC)  
**Cc:** George Wiley Center  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : George Wiley Center's proposal for Utility Justice

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing today to encourage the Public Utilities Commission to enable affordable utility service restoration for all Rhode Islanders currently shut off from gas or electric service. Access to affordable utilities is a basic human need, yet thousands in our state are currently without access to utilities due to economic inequality. This is a situation which is unacceptable.

I have suffered more than one winter here in Rhode Island without access to heat due solely to the fact that the cost was financially beyond my means. I know firsthand that living without heat makes life a grueling experience. In my experience, it exacerbated anxiety, depression, and physical illnesses such as the common cold and flu. It was not a life that any Rhode Islander should have to suffer needlessly.

The PUC has the power to affect this situation in a positive way. Please consider the health and the safety of those affected by shut offs by voting yes on the George Wiley Center's proposal for Emergency Rules to restore utility service before the winter season. Please remove barriers for people facing extended economic insecurity, such as the stipulation that affordable down payments are available only to those whose outstanding balance is lower than in previous years. Allow for a 10% down payment on outstanding balances. Please offer these regulations to all Rhode Islanders, both protected and standard customers. I ask that you implement these emergency regulations immediately, as the cold season is already upon us.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter which affects us all.

Kyle Stumpe  
Providence, RI 02909  
[stumpekyle@gmail.com](mailto:stumpekyle@gmail.com)

## Massaro, Luly (PUC)

---

**From:** Shana Klinger <shanalk2003@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2017 9:36 AM  
**To:** Massaro, Luly (PUC)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Testimony - Affordable Utility Restoration

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**TO:** RI Public Utilities Commission  
**RE:** Affordable Utility Restoration  
**FROM:** Shana L. Klinger, 274 Glenwood Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Please accept these comments at testimony in support of affordable utility restoration for all Rhode Islanders, such as that proposed by the George Wiley Center. "Public" utilities should exist for the basic survival and well-being of the public (human beings), not only the profits of those who own and sell them. Utility shut-offs present a hardship that threatens both survival and well-being of those who experience them. Although I currently have the means to pay my utility bill, as a senior who faces living on Social Security alone in the near future, I can foresee the day when I have to choose between food and heat, medical care and electricity. I urge you to step up to the moral imperative to protect me and the rest of the "public", which is in fact the reason your commission is empowered to exist.

Thank you for your service,  
Shana L. Klinger

## Massaro, Luly (PUC)

---

**From:** Bernice Lott <blott@uri.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 3:17 PM  
**To:** Massaro, Luly (PUC); George Wiley  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : utility shut offs

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I strongly support the efforts of the Wiley Center to restore utility services to all in RI who have had service shut off.

bernice lott, URI, emeritus professor

## Massaro, Luly (PUC)

---

**From:** Gerald Willis <willisg@salve.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 2:26 PM  
**To:** Massaro, Luly (PUC)  
**Cc:** georgewileycenterri@gmail.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : I support affordable utility restoration

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Public Utilities Commission:

I am writing you today to support the George Wiley Center's proposal for affordable utility restoration.

As a landlord, I see the struggle many of my tenants have to afford their utility bills each month. Many of them – if not all – live literally paycheck to paycheck. Frankly, for many of them, making it paycheck to paycheck is often unattainable. My tenants are hard-working citizens of Rhode Island, often taking second and third jobs to pay their bills. Far too often I have visited my tenants, only to find them living without heat or electricity, waiting for a paycheck so they can get the lights and heat turned back on.

The George Wiley has submitted a proposal to you – I urge you to enact emergency rules for affordable utility restoration. The utility company routinely demands high down payments for utility restoration, amounts that are unattainable for many struggling households. With winter coming, this issue is clearly in the interest of community health – lives may depend on it. Please support the Wiley Center's proposal for a 10% payment to be allowed for utility consumers (who are currently shut off) to get their heat and light turned back on.

Frankly, landlords should support this too, as often tenants must pay a large portion of their monthly income to get the lights/heat turned back on. This often results in delayed rent payments. The 10% payment solution would help.

As you must know, Rhode Island already has a shockingly high shut-off rate. Each year approximately 20,000 households are put through the trauma of utility termination due to unaffordable bills. This means surviving without access to heat, light, electricity, hot water, refrigeration, and all the other necessities of daily life. Imagine a child trying to do homework without lights or heat. Imagine a child having to shower or bathe without hot water.

Please take action -- and support the 10% payment allowance. Thank you.

Gerry Willis



**Dr. Gerry Willis**  
Salve Regina University

p: (401) 341-2207 e: [willisg@salve.edu](mailto:willisg@salve.edu)  
100 Ochre Point Ave., Newport, RI 02840  
[www.salve.edu](http://www.salve.edu)



## Massaro, Luly (PUC)

---

**From:** Finocchiaro, Lynn <LFinocchiaro@Wihri.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 8:47 AM  
**To:** Massaro, Luly (PUC)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : utility shut offs

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello, I am writing to express my concern about the problems many families have with having utilities turned off. In Rhode Island rents are very high and many buildings are sub par as far as insulation goes. I have had many families suffer without heat or hot water in the cold months and this has even caused homelessness among some of the families I work with. Please consider the George Wiley Center's proposal as they have a long history of working with the low income families particularly, renters, in RI.

Thanks so much,

*Lynn K. Finocchiaro*

Lynn K. Finocchiaro, LICSW

---

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking of any action in reliance on the information contained in this e-mail is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify sender by reply e-mail and delete this message and any attachment(s) immediately. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



## Massaro, Luly (PUC)

---

**From:** SUSANNA SHARKEY <ssharky03@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 4:19 AM  
**To:** Massaro, Luly (PUC)  
**Cc:** georgewileycenterri@gmail.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Utility Shut-offs and high down payments

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am a single mother of two children. One is in community college, one in 1st grade. Both girls are amazing. In 2011, I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, soon after, fibromyalgia. Over the past five years it has become increasingly difficult for me to work at a steady pace to provide income for my household. In December of 2016, my doctors took me out of work totally. I pretty much had zero income. I was put on the AMP plan for my utilities. \$105.00 monthly for electric and \$133.00 monthly for gas. A great plan if you had the income to pay it. My income? \$141.00 a week from TDI. I tried desperately to pay National Grid what I could, as my bills are so far behind. I don't think they understand the concept of having to pick and choose what you have to pay. I also have car insurance, household needs and two children I have to care for alone on no income. When I defaulted on the AMP program, I was asked for a down payment of over \$700.00 to avoid shut-off. The customer service agents at National Grid are on a power trip (no pun intended) and feel good when they tell you the large sum of money you need to put down "or else". It's a shame that a BASIC need like lights and heat costs so much and people like myself that are disabled and can't afford it are threatened with shut-offs all the time. Right now I have handicap protection on my account but that only goes so far. Fluctuations in temperature adversely affect my multiple sclerosis, but no one really cares about that. They just want their money. I believe utilities should be affordable for everyone. Those of us who have been dealt a hand we have no control over shouldn't be punished because we cannot afford to pay.

Sincerely  
Susanna Sharkey  
58 Anthony St  
East Providence, RI 02914



## Massaro, Luly (PUC)

---

**From:** Massaro, Luly (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 06, 2017 1:02 PM  
**To:** Massaro, Luly (PUC); WilsonFrias, Cynthia (PUC); 'Alan Nault (Alan.nault@puc.ri.gov)'; Bianco, Todd (PUC); George, Linda (PUC); Grant, Carol (DOA); Kearns, Christopher (DOA); Babbitt, Lewis (DHS); 'debbiec@georgewileycenter.org'; 'b.flambeau@juno.com'; 'camiloviveiros@gmail.com'; 'raquel.webster@nationalgrid.com'; 'celia.obrien@nationalgrid.com'; 'Joanne.scanlon@nationalgrid.com'; 'Robert.humm@nationalgrid.com'; 'mkirkwood@pud-ri.org'; 'llaporte@pud-ri.org'; 'Michael@McElroyLawOffice.com'; 'jwright@bipco.net'; 'Lwold@riag.ri.gov'; 'dmacrae@riag.ri.gov'; 'jmunoz@riag.ri.gov'; Lynch, Kevin (DPUC); Kogut, Thomas (DPUC); Spirito, John (DPUC); Scialabba, Steve (DPUC); Moniz, Diana (DPUC); 'jwillumsen@centerforjustice.org'  
**Subject:** George Wiley Center's Petition - Docket No. 1725  
**Attachments:** 1725 Utility Terminations SL (e-mail).doc; 1725-WileyCter-Petition(10-24-17).pdf

Good afternoon,

The PUC is in receipt of the attached letter from The George Wiley Center's requesting for restoration with different down payments and terms for all customers. The PUC will treat this as a petition under PUC Procedural Rule 1.10 and R.I. Gen. Laws Sec. 39-1-32 instead of under an emergency rulemaking. Interested parties have until November 16, 2017 to submit comments on the request. The matter will be considered at the November 21 open meeting.

Regards,  
Luly

Luly E. Massaro  
Commission Clerk  
RI Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Blvd.  
Warwick, RI 02888  
401-780-2107  
[Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov](mailto:Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov)

## Massaro, Luly (PUC)

---

**From:** Jennifer Kreft <jennifer.kreft@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2017 8:07 PM  
**To:** Massaro, Luly (PUC)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Support of affordable utility reinstatement

I am writing in support of the George Wiley Center's proposal for more affordable reconnection of utility services for Rhode Islanders. As a single mom I know how frustrating it can be to have to make hard choices between food and clothes for your kids and keeping the heat on. I hope that you will support families by helping them get through another winter.

Jennifer Pearce