

# RHODE ISLAND



Rhode Island Poor People's Campaign:  
A National Call for Moral Revival  
rhodeisland@poorpeoplescampaign.org

September 12, 2023

Rhode Island Public Utility Commission  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888  
PUC.PublicComments@puc.ri.gov

## **Re: Proposed RI Energy Rate Change**

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is in support of the George Wiley Center demand that:

RI Energy should freeze any rate increases for low-income, unemployed, disabled people and seniors on fixed incomes. Instead of trying to hike rates RI Energy should be working to pass PIPP: Percentage Income Payment Plan!

Poverty is the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S.<sup>1</sup> Utility rate hikes lead to homelessness. Homelessness prematurely sends people to their death.

Will Commissioners of the Rhode Island Public Utility Commission once again, as they did a year ago, wash their hands in innocence? That is the question. It is yours to answer.

Yours sincerely,

The Rhode Island Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

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<sup>1</sup>'Policy Murder': Research Shows Poverty Is 4<sup>th</sup> Leading Cause of Death in US; <https://www.commondreams.org/news/poverty-4th-leading-cause-death>

**From:** [Toni Rose](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** RI Energy Rate Increases  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 5:15:12 PM

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Good evening, all

My name is Toni Rose and I am writing to you in regards to RI Energy's utilities rates increasing. Since RI Energy has taken over National Grid, there has been nothing but increases. I am a working resident of RI and while I'm not in the low income bracket, I am not well off either! I'm your average working person living paycheck to paycheck; just trying to get by! I don't qualify for heating assistance because of me and my son's income, so I enrolled in RI Energy's budget billing which calculates your bills into twelve equal bills for the year but last month when I opened my bill, the amount had changed because it reviewed every six months and adjusted accordingly. Okay-had to fit that into the budget! Now to hear that rates are going up again is just spreading things to thin! If you don't help regulate this company who will. This company isn't even from Rhode Island and it feels like they are not trying to help us Rhode Islanders in the least! My rent is increasing next month, student loan payments are due and now RI Energy wants to raise rates yet again! Come on, can the average working person catch a break! Let's make it reasonable for all residents...please don't let the rates go up. I thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Toni Rose

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Tyler Mills](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to RI Energy Rate Change  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 3:46:52 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to express my deep concerns and opposition to the rate hikes! These rate hikes are burdensome to low income Rhode Islanders. I am a long time resident of Providence and I have seen many neighbors struggle with rate hikes over the years. These cause negative ripple effects within our communities. Please consider the passage of PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) or another option to assist struggling families. The rate hikes are not the only option on the table and I encourage you all to reconsider this proposal.

Rate hikes are unnecessary and are only motivated to increase the profits of RI Energy and those they use for their biddings. This current mode of operation and providing energy is not the best we can do. We need to move towards a publicly owned model of our energy grid. There are many examples throughout the country and New England area. As a small state we have the ability and opportunity to provide affordable, equitable, and renewable energy to all Rhode Islanders. Lets model our system and choices towards a just one where all can live more fruitfully.

Thank you,  
Tyler Mills  
233 Federal Street  
Providence, RI  
02909

**From:** [Lauren Nidel](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments, PUC](#)  
**Subject:** ENOUGH IS ENOUGH - NO HIKES  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 10:58:39 AM

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Our Summer was COOLER than average - Our winter was WARMER than average -- so why on earth would RI ENERGY demand more - because their profits were lower! TOUGH that's the cost of doing business with climate change and global warming. They need to suck it up instead of just SUCKING!

NO NEW RATE HIKES FOR ANYONE!

--

**Lauren Nidel**

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