



# State of Rhode Island

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID MORALES, *District 7*  
*Committee on Municipal Government and Housing*  
*Committee on Innovation, Internet and Technology*  
*Member, RI Black and Latino Caucus*

January 18, 2021

Division of Public Utilities and Carriers  
89 Jefferson Blvd  
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Members of the DPUC:

As a State Representative within the City of Providence, representing thousands of Narragansett Electric utility customers, *I write to you asking that you deny the sale and transfer of Narragansett Electric from National Grid to the PPL Corporation.* While I was initially advocating for the delay of this transfer, after watching the public hearings that occurred during the week of December 13th, it has become abundantly clear that denying this transfer of our utility system is in the best of interest of the public.

First and foremost, the people of Rhode Island already pay some of the highest electric and gas costs in the entire country and if this transfer is approved, our utility rates will only continue to increase even further. *As disclosed by the CEO of the PPL Corporation during the December public hearings, PPL 'reserves the right' to seek \$82 million from ratepayers through rate hikes as they transition into Rhode Island.* Furthermore, several expert witnesses have cited that PPL lacks the experience of working with renewable energy, the interconnection process, and municipal aggregation programs which will lead to higher operating costs. Unfortunately, these higher operating costs will subsequently be offset by rate hikes on customers. Therefore, PPL's ongoing rhetoric about a 'smooth transition' provides no actual reassurance that working people will be protected from rate hikes as a result of this sale.

On a similar note, I am concerned that PPL will not have the ability and expertise to meet the mandated carbon emission reduction goals required by our recently enacted 2021 Act on Climate law. After all, PPL has NO experience with operating offshore wind projects in either of their Pennsylvania or Kentucky subsidiaries. PPL has also failed to explain how they will maintain National Grid's current role with climate related programs such as Least Cost Procurement, the Renewable Energy Standard, renewable energy long-term contracting, interconnections for net metering, and the Renewable Energy Growth Program.

Clearly, this transfer of our utility system is not in the best interest of Rhode Islanders. Therefore, I respectfully ask that the DPUC deny the sale and transfer of Narragansett Electric from National Grid to the PPL Corporation.

Sincerely,

State Representative David Morales (House District 7)