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November 21, 2022

David J. Bonenberger  
President, Rhode Island Energy  
280 Melrose Street  
Providence, RI 02907

Dear Mr. Bonenberger,

In August 2022, Congress passed and President Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – the single largest investment in addressing climate change and lowering energy costs for American families. The legislation includes a record \$369 billion for clean energy and climate-related initiatives over the next decade. However, passing this legislation is only the beginning, and state governments, regulators, and utilities will ultimately play a large role in its successful implementation. To that end, I write to inquire about Rhode Island Energy's plans to prepare for the IRA's numerous new clean energy incentives to ensure ratepayers leverage these federal incentives with the state's clean energy programs.

The IRA is designed to lower energy costs for Americans through investments in new rebates to electrify home appliances, expanded incentives for clean energy installations, and enhanced electric vehicle tax credits. The electrification nonprofit Rewiring America estimates that households that take advantage of IRA tax credits and rebates to electrify their homes will save \$1,800 per year on energy bills alone. These savings will facilitate the adoption of new, cleaner technologies in transportation electrification, building electrification, and energy efficiency.

With new and expanded clean energy tax credits taking effect in January 2023, utilities like Rhode Island Energy must be able to modernize and scale energy programs to account for enhanced clean energy demand. It is important that Rhode Island Energy is engaged in a comprehensive planning process to prepare for the necessary increase in administrative and technological responsibilities. To that end, I kindly request that you respond to the following questions by December 9, 2022.

1. With the rollout of new IRA clean energy tax credits, many Rhode Islanders will need assistance assessing which incentives make sense for their households, and customer education will be more important than ever. How is Rhode Island Energy preparing to address significantly higher call volumes/emails and customer engagement?
2. How is Rhode Island Energy working with RISE Engineering to account for a significant increase in home energy assessments? How are you working with RISE to

ensure they adequately convey the new and expanded federal tax incentives available for homeowners and renters?

3. How is Rhode Island Energy preparing for load growth caused by a rise in the adoption of Distributed Energy Resources such as solar and wind, electric heat pumps, and charging stations for electric vehicles?

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack Reed", with a stylized, cursive script.

Jack Reed  
United States Senator

CC: Chris Kearns, Acting Commissioner, RI Office of Energy Resources  
Ron Gerwatowski, Chairman, RI Public Utilities Commission