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May 12, 2014

The Honorable John F. Mizner, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market St., 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Regulation #57-305 (IRRC #3053) L-2014-2409385 and
Regulation #57-306 (IRRC #3054) L-2014-2409383

Dear Chairman Mizner:

Over the past few months, many of my colleagues and I have been contacted by constituents who received bills from electric generation suppliers in January and February that, in some cases, reflected a 300% increase over the bills received in any prior billing period. The severe winter weather revealed flaws in the contracts and notices provided by electric generation suppliers and the unanticipated rate spikes had a severe impact on consumer budgets. Many consumers found themselves in the position of having to choose between paying their rent or their electric bill.

The above referenced regulations were issued by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to address these issues and although I understand the PUC's desire to act swiftly, I question the appropriateness of these regulations being submitted as final-omitted regulations. These regulations address issues that affect all electric consumers in the Commonwealth and, in my opinion, would have benefited from the customary public comment period and procedures applicable to rulemakings.

While I am in favor of reducing the amount of time it takes to switch a customer from one electric generation supplier to another I am concerned about the ability of electric distribution companies to meet the 3-day switching requirement within the 6-month implementation period proposed by the PUC. Accelerated switching times are necessary to prevent situations where consumers are stuck receiving service from an electric generation supplier for up to 45 days after requesting service from another supplier or indicating a desire to return to default service. The

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Page 2

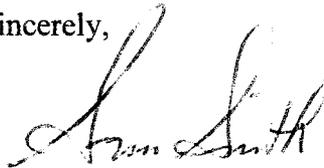
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upgrades will undoubtedly result in additional costs which may be exacerbated if required to be implemented on a compressed schedule. These costs will be passed onto consumers and steps should be taken to ensure that sufficient time is provided to the electric distribution companies to implement required system upgrades correctly and in a manner that minimizes costs to customers.

I also support robust competition in the retail electric generation industry but believe that competition needs to be balanced with consumer protection. The PUC regulations take a step in the right direction by enhancing the content of notices that must be provided to consumers. However, I am concerned that the regulations do not go far enough to remedy customer confusion regarding the terms and conditions associated with the contracts that may be offered by electric generation suppliers.

I am confident that IRRC will conduct a thorough review and consideration of the regulations to ensure their approval is in the public interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Smith".

Sam Smith, Speaker

Cc: George D. Bedwick, Vice Chairman
W. Russell Faber, Commissioner
Lawrence J. Tabas, Esq., Commissioner
Dennis A. Watson, Esq., Commissioner