

#3053

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Senate of Pennsylvania

**TIMOTHY J. SOLOBAY
46TH DISTRICT**

May 16, 2014

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David Sumner
Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Public Utility Commission
Final Omitted Regulations

2014 MAY 16 PM 4: 01

RECEIVED
IRRC

Dear Mr. Sumner:

I am writing to echo the concerns of the members of the Senate Democratic Caucus, who have already gone on record supporting the Final Omitted Regulations currently before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), urging adoption of protections for electricity consumers. Your immediate attention to the matter outlined in this correspondence is, hereby, respectfully requested.

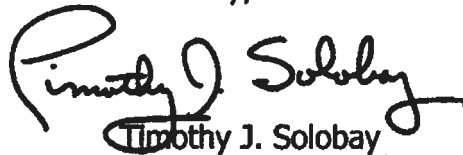
My Senate offices, like those of my colleagues in the General Assembly, have been inundated with calls from constituents and small business owners who have been victimized by the unanticipated consequences of variable rate contracts with suppliers, coupled with record cold temperatures in January and February. What happened this winter cannot be allowed to happen again.

Companies offering the variable rate contracts did not sufficiently inform customers of the details of their decisions nor was the process for switching suppliers an expeditious one. Consequently, folks frequently found themselves in dire financial straits that they did not foresee and were not able to remedy the situation in a timely manner. The PUC's rulemakings are designed to address these issues: Regulation 57 - 305 would require electric generation suppliers to improve disclosure statements in order to better inform customers of their choices, while Regulation 57 - 306 would accelerate the time frame for customers to switch suppliers.

I am hopeful that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission will agree that the PUC's regulations need to go into effect before the summer heat is upon us and customers are once again potentially impacted by exorbitant electric bills. While the General Assembly continues to explore legislative solutions to the problems with the retail electricity market, I urge you to approve these regulations as well.

Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this matter of mutual concern. I anxiously await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy J. Solobay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Timothy J. Solobay
State Senator – 46th District

CC: Robert F. Powelson
John F. Coleman
James H. Cawley
Pamela A. Witmer
Gladys M. Brown