

# 3054

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**SENATE BOX 203046  
ROOM 15-EW THE STATE CAPITOL  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3046  
TELEPHONE: 717-787-1463  
FAX: 717-772-2108**

**EMAIL: tsolobay@pasenate.com  
WEBSITE: www.senatorsolobay.com**



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

**TIMOTHY J. SOLOBAY  
46<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

**May 16, 2014**

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

**CANONSBURG BOROUGH BUILDING  
68 EAST PIKE STREET, ROOM 205  
CANONSBURG, PA 15317  
TELEPHONE: 724-746-3762  
FAX: 724-746-3509**

**SATELLITE OFFICES**

**GEORGE WASHINGTON HOTEL  
60 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 207  
WASHINGTON, PA 15301  
TELEPHONE: 724-223-2114  
FAX: 724-223-2117**

**GREENE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
83 EAST HIGH STREET, ROOM 308  
WAYNESBURG, PA 15370  
TELEPHONE: 724-627-9802**

**David Sumner  
Executive Director  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street, 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

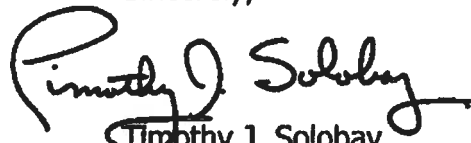
My Senate offices, like those of my colleagues in the General Assembly, have been inundated with calls from constituents and small business owners who have been victimized by the unanticipated consequences of variable rate contracts with suppliers, coupled with record cold temperatures in January and 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 fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Timothy J. Solobay  
State Senator – 46<sup>th</sup> District

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