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Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

Barry J. Hobbins
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

April 20, 2021

Chairman Lawrence, Chairman Berry and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee,

My name is Barry Hobbins and I am the Public Advocate with the Office of the Public Advocate and I am here today to testify neither for nor against LD 1431 “An Act To Require Certain Veterans' Organizations To Be Billed for Electricity Usage at the Same Rate as Residential Customers.”

The OPA does not object to the goals set forth by this bill but would like to highlight that LD 1431 may cause a minor impact on ratepayer bills due to the loss of the demand change for facilities moved from medium commercial to small/residential. It is not clear that all veterans’ organizations would benefit from this designation. Some organizations may see a higher bill if they were classified as residential. It would very much depend on the load characteristics of the particular facility. The Office of the Public Advocate would like to suggest making the residential classification optional for veterans’ organizations if the sponsor were amenable to that change.

Thank you for your time, attention and consideration of this testimony. The Office of the Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Committee on LD 1431, and will be present at the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry J. Hobbins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Barry J. Hobbins
Public Advocate