

Two weeks ago, our industry asked Governor Lamont to issue an executive order placing an immediate moratorium on all efforts related to electrification until there is an independent review of how DEEP and PURA can ensure that their plans to electrify the economy are not subject to future catastrophic power outages. This review should include diversifying our energy mix to ensure that we are not dependent on one source of energy. Please support our call for this action before the utilities fail again.

? Encourage DEEP to adopt lower cost alternatives like a thermal renewable energy credit program that includes biodiesel as prescribed in Public Act 19-35. This program can lower electric costs and supports local businesses. Please contact DEEP and tell them to put the brakes on electrification efforts and to work with our industry to create a Thermal Portfolio Standards that includes biodiesel.

? Connecticut also needs to allow PURA to once again be an independent agency that is responsible for overseeing our public utilities. As a subagency of DEEP, PURA does not have the autonomy that it needs to make decisions that are in the best interest of ratepayers. DEEP's energy policy initiatives need to be counterbalanced with PURA's ability to protect against uneconomic investments that drive up costs to consumers. This conflict in mission needs to be resolved to protect ratepayers.

? Since PURA approved the electric rate increase, it makes no sense to have them investigate why rates went up - they approved it so they should know. An independent third party should investigate the utilities to ensure that the rate increase was legitimate and they should also review PURA to verify that their oversight of the utilities storm response and rate increase was prudent and appropriate.

? Urge the Governor to immediately appoint a permanent Consumer Counsel. It has been about a year that ratepayers have gone without the chief watchdog to protect them from uneconomic investments and higher rates. This position is vital in protecting consumers from a very complex and overly bureaucratic regulatory environment that is impossible for the average person to figure out. Its unacceptable to have such an important position vacant for this long.

These recommendations help ensure that our economy is not crippled when the power goes out in the future and helps control costs. Connecticut cannot afford for millions of homes, businesses, and vehicles to literally be shut off because we subsidized electric technologies that don't work when electric utilities fail.

Now is the time to avoid the electrify everything mistake that will not be able to be undone once it is fully implemented.

For more information please contact my trade association representative Chris Herb at chris@ctema.com or 860-613-2041.

Sincerely,

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