

To: Honored Chairs Sen. Needleman and Rep. Arconti and Distinguished Members of the Energy and Technology Committee

From: Elise Thoron

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony concerning Tropical Storm Isaias Response and Electric Utility Rate Increases.

As a long time resident of Bethany, we have been through an ever increasing number of power outages from an unprecedented number of devastating storms. Clearly weather is made more violent and deadly by climate change, which is effecting us all. The utility's answer has been to cut down more trees to clear fragile power lines and deliver power fueled by fossil products. We need a rethink and an energy policy that shifts to green energy and allows for solar, wind renewable energy to fuel a grid that is equipped to handle newer technologies. Connecticut legislature is making important strides towards these goals. For too long, Connecticut's electric grid has been in the hands of fossil fuel interests instead of ratepayers. Connecticut must demand that policies and investments of our public utilities align with our state's climate goals. Please realize this is hard for individuals to impact, when Eversource does not even answer the phone, or have coherent customer communication in time of crisis. And competent out of state crews are the ones who really restore power on our block. We need to do all we can avoid these extreme weather conditions, which will become even more regular occurrences of climate change, if we don't make these significant changes in our energy sources to green and grid that works. Thank your for your efforts on tax payers behalf to get our public utilities to be part of the solution, and your striving to have CT be a leader in much needed Green energy.

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