

8/26/20

To:
CT State Energy and Technology Committee

From:
Ellen Jacob
Southport, CT 06890

Re: 8/27 PURA Hearing On UI 4.7% Rate Increase, Docket No. 20-01-02

Dear Committee Members:

We in Fairfield are struggling to remain here under increasing hardship due to the continuing statewide economic recession made substantially worse by CoVid-19 restrictions and increasing cost of living expenses.

How much more can we take?

This is the absolutely worst time to grant UI — a public utility answerable to the public — a 4.7% rate increase.

The recent tornado in our area highlighted the failure of UI to keep up with tree maintenance (as previously promised and charged for). So many power lines were destroyed unnecessarily — merely because they neglected to maintain their own tree trimming program. At considerable expense, for the past few years I have had to pay for tree services to do the trimming to protect UI electric lines on my own property! The last damaging storm took down the lines entering my home, leaving live wires on my lawn (near a school bus stop). I actually had to chase down a UI truck in the area, after days of trying to call for repair, to correct the dangerous situation. I placed my own CAUTION tape around the area to prevent curious children from entering. In addition, I had to pay my electrician to reconnect the new lines to my house.

It is interesting that only AFTER THE LATEST STORM'S DESTRUCTION — just in time for their rate increase request — a crew from UI came and trimmed a minimum of tree branches (only branches actually touching the wires, they said) — not nearly enough to push back even short-term future growth.

I do hope you hear our collective cry for help.

**Thank You,
Ellen Jacob & Family**