

August 27,2020

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

I'm writing out of concern that our essential utilities, once privatized, are focused more on profit for shareholders and chief executives than on providing reliable, environmentally conscious, economical electricity and water for consumers. Climate change demands that we move towards renewable energy as swiftly as possible.

Eversource, for example, has grown into a multi-state behemoth with near monopoly power for electricity. It is now engaged in acquiring water resources, having bought Aquarian Water and having vigorously competed for CT Water Company.

We need an electrical grid that is diversified- both by energy source and by distribution. We should be continuing to support solar installations, instead of removing net-metering. Legal disputes over property taxes for solar panels need to be resolved NOW. In Bloomfield, one of the state's first community solar installations is in peril as the town now insists on taxing solar panels, rendering the power purchase financial model problematic.

Additional zero/low-carbon energy in the form of wind needs to be developed.

The state should require legislative approval for all new gas infrastructure to protect consumers from costly, polluting, and unnecessary fossil fuel infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention to my comments,

Valerie Rossetti
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