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To: Connecticut General Assembly Energy & Technology Committee

From: Bill Purcell, President, Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce

Date: September 8, 2020

RE: LCO No. 3920 Listening Session

Thank you for hosting today's virtual Listening Session regarding LCO No. 3920, an *Act Concerning Emergency Response By Electric Distribution Companies and Revising the Regulation of Other Public Utilities*, and for the opportunity to share this testimony.

The Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary business association serving the business community of the Lower Naugatuck Valley of Connecticut, which consists of the communities of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Seymour, Shelton and Oxford. We are proud to count among our valued Chamber members the state's two primary Electric Distribution Companies; *Eversource* and *United Illuminating*. Both companies have provided our Valley communities with vital electric and natural gas services, and have been exemplary Corporate Citizens.

In the days following Tropical Storm Isaias, countless numbers of Public Officials at the Federal, State and Local levels voiced their concerns about the Utilities response to this natural disaster. No doubt, these public statements have prompted a response from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) as well as this Legislative Committee, which might feel compelled to take immediate action.

But as you know, Energy Policy is a complicated matter, and expediency should not take the place of a thoughtful, deliberative and collaborative approach to finding solutions. It is in this spirit that I write to urge the Committee to continue to empower PURA to continue with its investigation into the Utilities storm response, and to consider these recommendations as well as those from other vital stakeholders before adopting legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of these thoughts, and best wishes in your deliberations.

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Ansonia | Beacon Falls | Derby | Oxford | Seymour | Shelton*