

Dear Energy and Technology Committee member,

This is a great start! I appreciate the hard work that's gone into LCO 3920 to improve the reliability of the state's electricity grid, while increasing utility accountability and advancing the state's environmental goals. Important components of the bill include the expansion of eligibility for the microgrid and resilience grant program, and the recognition that adherence to the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals will ensure the reliability and resilience of our electricity grid.

The bill allows Connecticut's electric utilities to meet the challenge of more frequent and severe storm events as a result of climate change, while supporting clean, reliable, and affordable electricity generation in a manner that leverages competition, reduces ratepayer risk, and achieves the state's climate goals.

Now to make this bill even more effective, we need to add the following items:

Expand energy storage.

Increased energy storage is essential to building resilience and reliability into our electricity grid. Coupled with rooftop solar, energy storage systems provide power for customers when the grid itself is down.

Expand the Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP).

Homeowners need more economical solar options. Like many sectors of the economy, the solar industry was negatively impacted by COVID-19. Expanding the RSIP would ensure that we remain on track to deploy more solar and energy storage systems in the state. This will improve the reliability and resilience of the grid and is also a smart COVID-19 recovery measure.

Keep solar net metering until 2022. As with the expansion of RSIP and energy storage, maintaining the current net metering program for another year will provide stability to the solar industry and ensure predictability for homeowners looking to invest in clean, renewable technology. Given the other challenges facing the state, this would also allow PURA to focus on its grid modification efforts instead of a rushed new tariff program.

Thank you for tackling these important issues. Connecticut needs comprehensive climate change policies today for a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Ms. Judith Nugent
New Haven, CT