

Lynne Bonnett
675 Townsend Ave.
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Sept. 8, 2020

Energy and Technology Committee of the CT General Assembly
Revising the Regulation of Other Public Utilities

Re: LCO 3920

Dear co chairs and members of the committee:

I support revising regulations to do the following:

- 1) Remove barriers for tenants to net meter a shared solar array on small multifamily homes in New Haven (2-4 units) who have been left out of renewable energy programs because of the current rules that require one array per meter (excluding tenants), requiring that property owners combine meters (expensive) in order to satisfy this requirement but then preventing them from charging tenants for their usage. Property owners have to assume liability for paying for their tenant's usage without the ability to recoup costs if the tenants use more than an estimated amount. These barriers make solar for small multifamily homes in New Haven unfeasible.
- 2) I support a power sharing arrangement with Long Island that requires power to flow from New Haven to Long Island half of the year and power to flow from Long Island to New Haven the other half of the year. When the legislature approved the Cross Sound Cable we were promised that this cable would be bi-directional and increase reliability for both. However, since inception, it has never functioned this way. Instead New Haven has always supplied power to Long Island at the rate of a small power plant – approximately 320 MW. It is time to restore equity to this situation. It could be timed so that New Haven receives power in the winter when heating loads need support and Long Island receives power in the summer when an influx of summer residents need cooling. ISO NE regulates this flow as part of their grid operation. I don't think they care that the promised bi-directionality of this cable was never delivered.
- 3) I also support a more regional power generation through microgrids; these can definitely improve resilience in urban communities dealing with power loss due to severe weather events and peak loads.
- 4) Power storage is critical. As part of our GC3 workgroup conversations we wanted to support transition from fossil fuel to electric heat pump HVAC systems by linking the heat pumps to a dedicated solar array that would offset the increased demand to the grid. Storage would make this more feasible. We know that behind the meter use of solar is the most efficient. We also know that solar arrays generate power seasonally and depend upon when the sun is shining. It would be best to link the solar array to storage in order to supply 24/7 power for HVAC systems

Tenants have been subsidizing the state energy efficiency and renewable systems for the rest of the state since inception. It is past time to revise regulations in order to provide the same benefits that everyone else receives and has received.

Sincerely,
/Lynne Bonnett/