

Testimony from Pam McDonald (originally submitted online earlier today)

Amended by additions in 14pt type

September 6, 2020

Re: 3920 An Act Concerning Emergency Response by Electric Distribution Companies and Revising the Regulation of Other Public Utilities

We appreciate your work on improving the reliability of the state's electricity grid while increasing utility accountability and advancing the state's environmental goals with LCO 3920.

The bill's adherence to the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals is a critical element of improving the reliability and resilience of our electricity grid.

SIDE NOTE: (Let's not bring any fracked gas into Connecticut, or disperse unnecessary particulates into the air or water in Killingly, a town already suffering from more than the usual respiratory conditions. Gas is not a bridge fuel, and routine cleaning of the fracked gas system generates unacceptable levels of pollution. Why would we invest in a resource that will soon be a stranded resource?)

This bill will help us prepare for/to:

- the inevitable increase in the number and severity of storm events
- our need for clean, reliable, and affordable electricity generation
- protect ratepayers (aka: customers in a monopoly)
- achieve our state's climate goals

It's important to make this bill even more effective by:

- Expanding energy storage for resiliency and reliability
- Leveraging our investment in rooftop solar with robust energy storage systems that can provide power for customers when the larger grid is down
- Expanding the Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP) to provide more economical solar options to homeowners, lower the burden on the grid and stabilize our capacity to continue to gracefully build out solar power - side benefit: enhance our state economy's COVID recovery, while investing wisely in our energy future
- Keeping solar net metering until 2022. (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.)
- Clarifying the property tax exemption for solar and storage to protect homeowners from being overtaxed, locally.
- Repealing the Pipeline Tax. It seems that the tail has been wagging the dog here. ISO has been very heavy-handed in dictating Connecticut's future reliance on fracked gas, despite the inevitability of creating stranded resources as we build a clean energy future. In addition to this misguided approach, they built-in financial forgiveness for themselves by holding Connecticut ratepayers responsible for the costs of this misguided gas infrastructure, including malfunctions, no matter how misplaced their

faith in fracked gas is. This structure is unfair to Connecticut ratepayers and very unwise.

SIDE NOTE: I have been very impressed with Mr. Judge of Eversource in many ways. However, he seems to be working under the assumption that Eversource is not really responsible to anyone more than to its stockholders. Perhaps that is literally true, but I certainly hope he, and the world find that, when management prioritizes the successful delivery of power to its customers below the profits to its stockholders, the stockholders ultimately lose.

Thank you for attending to these urgent and important issues. What Connecticut investment could make a bigger difference to our long-term welfare? We owe a clean, efficient, reliable, affordable energy delivery system to our kids.

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