

Energy and Technology September 8th Public Hearing Testimony on Eversource Rates

Our system has failed the ratepayers—this commission, but not you alone: the legislators who passed regulations that increased our rates, Capitol insiders who advocated for higher costs, corporations that have put the salaries of their executives before the welfare of their customers, and governors who let it happen on their watch—all of them bear the blame.

Connecticut has the highest electric rates in the continental United States. It's a crushing burden for hard-working families, and a reason for businesses to locate elsewhere.

Our rates are a staggering 88% above the national average, and the high profits and massive executive salaries allowed by PURA are one of the reasons. While consumers struggle, the president of Eversource takes home a cool \$19 million a year at our expense. As regulators, you are supposed to be watching out for us. You haven't done your job.

You have both the expertise and the credibility to help correct the bad policies that have led to these outrageous costs. I ask you to make it clear to legislators the cost of what they mandate—you can't sit by silently and watch them make decisions that break that back of small businesses and hard-working families.

You are also the last line of defense for consumers. Please remember the millions of citizens who rely on you when you deal with the handful of highly-paid executives who control the industry. They have well-connected and well-healed lobbyists to make their case; consumers are underrepresented, unless you yourselves take up our cause.

I have proposed that appointed commissioners be replaced by an elected board, as is done in eleven states. I challenge you to prove me wrong, by taking strong and immediate action to roll back the unbearable rate increase and to put us on a path to lower electrical costs, for the good of our state. Please do your job.

Sincerely,

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