

To: Honored Chairs Sen. Needleman and Rep. Arconti and Distinguished Members of the Energy and Technology Committee

From: Rhea Khilnani, 195 Sunset Dr Glastonbury

For too long, Connecticut's electric grid has been in the hands of fossil fuel interests instead of ratepayers.

CT must demand that policies and investments of our public utilities align with our state's climate goals. I am in support of Section 19, calling for a review of the ISO-New England wholesale market. This provision is incredibly important to realizing ratepayer interests and keeping in concert with CT's policy goals and environmental protection efforts. Because of climate change CT will be facing more hurricanes and storms such as the tropical storm Isaias we recently had. Most of CT was out of power due to the storm and because CT was dependent on coal and oil it took longer than necessary to get power back up. If CT expands its electric grid to get energy from offshore wind, solar, and even hydropower we will be less dependent on fossil fuels and more prepared to get electricity back up after storms.

Connecticut can divest from fossil fuels by expanding energy storage, expanding the Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP), keeping solar net-metering until 2022, and clarifying the property tax exemption for solar and storage. Lastly CT should repeal the Pipeline Tax. Connecticut should require legislative approval for all new gas infrastructure to protect consumers from costly, polluting, and unnecessary fossil fuel infrastructure. We can't allow our utilities to continue to invest in dirty, polluting fossil fuels. We need to put the "public" back in public utilities and ensure that the utility works for the ratepayers, not the other way around.

Thank you for your consideration as you deliberate on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Rhea Khilnani