

TESTIMONY CONCERNING LCO 3920 AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY RESPONSE BY ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES AND REVISING THE REGULATION OF OTHER PUBLIC UTILITIES

September 8, 2020

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on LCO 3920 An Act Concerning Emergency Response by Electric Distribution Companies and Revising the Regulation of Other Public Utilities.

It is time for us to reconsider our energy platform in light of the climate emergency we are facing. Energy is now a necessity, not a luxury. It makes no sense to have a basic need in the hands of fossil fuel interests when that is clearly NOT where the public interest lies. The vast majority of people are concerned about climate change and want public officials to do something about it. Here is such an opportunity.

I am in strong 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. If CT wants to invest in renewable energy and cut out fossil fuels, we must get out of ISO-New England. Again, moving to a sustainable energy future is what the majority of people want.

I strongly endorse the following provisions as part of this effort:

- **Expand energy storage.** The only way we can increase renewable energy procurement, including offshore wind, solar, hydropower etc. is to expand storage. Without it we will lack the necessary infrastructure to expand renewable energy to meet our goals. Energy storage provides a measure of resilience for the storms in our future.
- **Expand the Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP)** to provide more economical solar options to homeowners and lower the burden on the grid.
- **Keep solar net-metering until 2022.** This will allow PURA to focus on other grid modification efforts instead of a rushed and unnecessary net-metering successor program.
- **Clarify the property tax exemption for solar and storage.** Without this clarification, towns will continue to improperly assess property taxes on residential solar which will hurt the solar market.
- **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. I strongly oppose this tax. Most people aren't even aware they are paying it. No more hidden fees.

We can't allow our utilities to continue to invest in dirty, polluting fossil fuels if we are to ensure a safe, livable future for life on this planet.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas.

Susan Miller, Windsor Climate Action
10 Ethan Drive
Windsor, CT 06095
susancmiller@comcast.net

