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November 9, 2026

Chairman Thomas Wiehl, Vice Chairman David Arconti, Commissioner Janice Beecher,
Commissioner Holly Cheeseman, Commissioner Everett Smith
Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Testimony on Docket Number 26-05-10 Application of The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to Amend its Rate Schedules

Dear Chairman Wiehl, Vice Chairman Arconti, Commissioner Beecher, Commissioner Cheeseman, and Commissioner Smith:

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to Eversource's proposed rate increase, which seeks approximately $727 million in additional annual revenue, including storm-related costs. This request would place another substantial financial burden on Connecticut ratepayers who are already struggling with some of the highest electricity costs in the nation.

Families are making difficult decisions about household expenses, seniors on fixed incomes are watching their budgets stretch thinner, and small businesses are struggling to remain competitive. Asking these same ratepayers to shoulder another substantial increase is simply unacceptable.

Electricity is not a luxury. It is a necessity. Our residents cannot shop around for another company to deliver electricity to their homes. They are captive customers of a regulated monopoly, and that makes PURA's responsibility to protect them all the more important.

Meanwhile, Eversource continues to generate substantial profits. The company reported approximately $1.69 billion in net earnings in 2025 and more than $1 billion in the first nine months of 2026 alone. While these figures represent Eversource's operations across multiple states, they raise serious questions about the financial burden being placed on Connecticut ratepayers.

Adding insult to injury, Eversource is seeking to increase its authorized return on equity from 9.25% to 10.25%. At a time when Connecticut families are being asked to tighten their belts, it is difficult to justify increasing the returns available to shareholders while simultaneously demanding hundreds of millions of additional dollars from customers who have no alternative provider.

I recognize that maintaining a safe, reliable electric grid requires investment. But the burden must be on Eversource to demonstrate that every dollar it seeks from ratepayers is necessary, reasonable, and justified. Ratepayers should not be expected to absorb escalating costs without clear evidence of corresponding benefits.

I am particularly concerned about the proposed four-year rate structure, which could allow additional adjustments based on inflation, capital investments, and other factors. Connecticut families do not have the luxury of automatically increasing their household incomes to keep pace with rising expenses. Our utilities should not be insulated from the same financial pressures their customers face.

As legislators, we are working to find meaningful ways to reduce energy costs and provide relief to Connecticut residents. Those efforts cannot succeed if substantial new increases continue to erase whatever savings we achieve.

I urge PURA to thoroughly scrutinize this application, reject costs that are not demonstrably necessary, and place the financial well-being of Connecticut ratepayers at the forefront of its decision. I also urge the Authority to carefully examine Eversource's requested return on equity and ensure that shareholder interests are not prioritized over affordability for the customers who ultimately foot the bill.

The question should not simply be how much Eversource wants to collect. It should be how much Connecticut families can reasonably be expected to pay.

Our residents have reached their breaking point. They deserve an energy system that is reliable, accountable, and affordable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Liz Linehan
Deputy Speaker of the House