TOWN of TOLLAND/ 21 Tolland Green, Tolland Connecticut 06084

June 3, 2026

Chairperson Thomas Wiehl and Commissioners
Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Eversource Electric Distribution Rate Case

Dear Chairperson Wiehl and Commissioners:

The Tolland Town Council respectfully submits this letter regarding Eversource Energy's recently announced intent to seek an electric distribution rate increase that could result in an average increase of approximately 11 percent to customer electric bills.

The Town Council recognizes the critical importance of maintaining a reliable, resilient, and modern electric distribution system. We appreciate the role that electric utilities play in supporting Connecticut's residents, businesses, schools, public safety operations, and local governments. We also understand that prudent infrastructure investments are necessary to ensure the continued reliability of the electric grid.

However, the magnitude of the proposed increase raises significant concerns for the residents and taxpayers of Tolland. Connecticut households continue to face substantial economic pressures from inflation, housing costs, healthcare expenses, and rising utility bills. Many residents, particularly seniors living on fixed incomes and working families, are struggling to absorb the cumulative effect of these increasing costs. An additional increase of approximately 11 percent would place a significant burden on many households within our community.

The Town of Tolland is home to many retirees and residents living on fixed incomes who are particularly vulnerable to significant increases in utility costs. For these residents, even modest increases in monthly electric bills can create difficult financial choices and further strain household budgets. The Council believes that the affordability of essential utility services must remain a primary consideration throughout this rate review process.

The proposed increase would also have a direct impact on municipal operations. The Town of Tolland relies upon electric service to operate schools, public safety facilities, public works infrastructure, municipal buildings, athletic fields, and community services. Any substantial increase in electric rates ultimately translates into increased operating expenses borne by local taxpayers.

Like many municipalities across Connecticut, Tolland has worked diligently to control spending, manage budgets responsibly, and limit the burden placed upon property taxpayers. Town officials are routinely required to justify expenditures, identify efficiencies, and make difficult budgetary decisions in order to provide essential services while maintaining fiscal discipline. Significant increases in utility costs

undermine these efforts and place additional pressure on municipal budgets, often leaving local governments with few options other than reducing services, delaying capital investments, or increasing the property tax burden on residents.

Accordingly, the Tolland Town Council respectfully urges PURA to conduct a thorough and rigorous review of Eversource's request. We ask that the Authority carefully evaluate whether all proposed expenditures and investments are necessary, prudent, and cost-effective and whether less burdensome alternatives exist for Connecticut ratepayers.

The Council further requests that PURA give substantial consideration to the cumulative impact of utility cost increases on Connecticut residents and municipalities. While maintaining a reliable electric system is essential, affordability must remain a central consideration in any rate proceeding. If PURA determines that some level of increase is warranted, we encourage the Authority to consider measures that would mitigate the impact on customers and local governments, including phased implementation and aggressive scrutiny of all proposed expenditures.

The residents of Tolland expect transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship from both public utilities and regulatory agencies. We are confident that PURA will carefully balance the need for infrastructure investment with the financial realities facing Connecticut households and local governments.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for your continued commitment to protecting the interests of Connecticut ratepayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Moran

Chairperson

On behalf of the Tolland Town Council (Or all of council)

cc:
Governor Ned Lamont
Attorney General William Tong
Office of Consumer Counsel
Tolland Legislative Delegation
Eversource Energy
Brian Foley, Town Manager