THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON

INCORPORATED 1645

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November 9, 2026

Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

RE: Town of Farmington Comments to PURA on Eversource Rate Request Docket No. 26-05-10

Dear Executive Secretary Gaudiosi and Members of the Authority:

The Town of Farmington appreciates the opportunity to submit comments regarding Eversource's proposed electric distribution rate increase.

While the financial burden on residential customers deserves serious consideration, we urge PURA to also consider another equally important constituency: Connecticut's employers, manufacturers, small businesses, and commercial property owners.

Connecticut already has some of the highest electricity costs in the nation. These costs place an increasing burden on households, and they also create a significant competitive disadvantage for businesses considering locating, expanding, or remaining in our state. Electricity is a fundamental operating expense for virtually every business, and continued increases make it increasingly difficult for Connecticut to compete with other states and regions offering more affordable operating environments.

Connecticut already pays some of the highest electricity prices in the nation. Eversource now asks for another $727 million a year, which would raise a typical residential bill by 18%. The Town of Farmington urges PURA to approve only what Eversource proves is necessary and prudent. Our full comments are attached for the record.

For our residents, especially seniors and others on fixed incomes, an increase of this size means hard choices about essentials. Their incomes do not rise to match this increase, and they will be faced with difficult decisions.

In addition to our residents, Farmington’s business community is one reason our Town is so successful. We are a regional center of commerce, with about 3,483 businesses, 28,561 jobs and more than 6.5 million square feet of commercial and office space, and we ranked 15th of Connecticut’s 169 municipalities in the Hartford Business Journal’s 2026 best places for business. Employers built that record over

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decades, and manufacturing and commercial property account for roughly 30% of our grand list.

That success depends on cost. For a business, electricity is a fixed cost, not a luxury it can cut. A manufacturer cannot run a production line on less power. Connecticut's commercial rate (22.92 cents per kWh in 2025) is already far above the national average of 13.41 cents. This is not theoretical. Two Farmington manufacturers have told us that electric rates were a factor when they chose to expand existing plants in Tennessee and Indiana rather than in Connecticut. While other states are seeing growth, Connecticut's has lagged, and every lost expansion means lost jobs and lost tax revenue. The burden then shifts to residential taxpayers.

We respectfully ask PURA to:

1. Deny or reduce any amount not shown to be justified.
2. Require Eversource to publish bill impacts for every commercial and industrial rate class, including demand charges, for each year of any multi-year plan.
3. Keep recovery of Storm costs separate from ongoing distribution costs.
4. Reject, or place strict limits on, automatic annual adjustments under any multi-year plan, and preserve robust public review throughout.
5. Phase in any approved increase.

Affordability is an economic issue as much as a utility one. We urge PURA to hold Eversource to the highest standard of proof.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A Blonski

Kathleen A. Blonski
Town Manager
Town of Farmington

KB/rp