State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE RAGHIB ALLIE-BRENNAN
2ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4004
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0206
E-MAIL: Raghib.Allie-Brennan@cga.ct.gov

CHIEF MAJORITY WHIP

MEMBER
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

November 18, 2026

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

RE: Docket No. 26-05-10 — Eversource Distribution Rate Application

Written Testimony of State Representative Raghib Allie-Brennan

Chairman Wiehl, Vice Chairman Arconti, and Members of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority:

I represent Connecticut's 2nd House District, including Bethel and portions of Danbury, and serve on the General Assembly's Energy and Technology Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to Eversource's proposed rate increase as filed.

Connecticut residents are angry, and their frustration is understandable. They are tired of opening their electric bills and wondering how much more they will be asked to pay. They are tired of being told that another increase is necessary while the costs of housing, groceries, insurance, and nearly everything else continue to rise. Most frustratingly, they have no choice when it comes to who delivers their electricity.

Eversource is seeking approximately $451 million in additional annual base distribution revenue, with the potential total reaching $727 million depending on storm-related costs. Under the higher-cost scenario, a typical residential customer could pay another $33 per month, or nearly $400 annually. For families already struggling to make ends meet, that is groceries, medication, or money they simply do not have.

Last year, I supported bipartisan legislation to reduce certain public benefits charges, strengthen oversight, and modernize electricity procurement. Those reforms were intended to provide relief, yet residents now face the prospect of seeing that relief diminished by increases elsewhere on their bills. The General Assembly must also acknowledge its responsibility to examine state policies and mandates that contribute to electricity costs. Accountability must extend to every part of the system, including the decisions we make in Hartford.

I recognize that maintaining a reliable electric grid requires investment, modern infrastructure, and skilled utility workers. But reliability and affordability are not competing priorities. Connecticut residents deserve both.

Eversource must demonstrate that its proposed expenses are necessary and reasonable. That includes its request to increase its authorized return on equity from 9.25% to 10.25%, its operating expenses, infrastructure investments, and storm-related costs. Customers should not be required to pay twice for the same expense or shoulder costs that cannot be justified.

I am also concerned about the proposed four-year rate plan, which would permit annual revenue adjustments. Any multiyear framework must include meaningful oversight, transparency, and strong protections against unnecessary increases.

Beyond examining expenses, we should be asking what customers are actually getting for their money. Utility investments should deliver measurable improvements in reliability, customer service, and efficiency. As Connecticut develops performance-based utility regulation, we should ensure utilities are rewarded for controlling costs and delivering results, not simply spending more.

This proceeding also highlights the need to broaden our approach to electricity affordability. Public benefits charges are only one part of the bill. Supply, transmission, distribution, and utility operations all deserve scrutiny. I have been working with researchers and legislative colleagues to examine alternative electricity procurement strategies and potential savings. While that work addresses a separate part of the bill, the principle is the same: Every dollar charged to ratepayers deserves scrutiny.

I respect PURA's independent responsibility to evaluate the evidence and establish just and reasonable rates. But the burden of demonstrating that this increase is justified belongs to Eversource, not the families and small businesses who will ultimately pay it.

The frustration I hear from constituents reflects years of rising expenses and the feeling that no matter how carefully they budget, they keep falling further behind. They should not have to become utility experts to understand why their bills keep increasing, nor should they accept

another increase as inevitable.

Connecticut families have been asked to pay more and more. It is time to demand greater accountability before asking them to pay another dollar.

I urge PURA to reject Eversource's proposed increase as filed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Raghib Allie-Brennan
State Representative, 2nd Assembly District
Connecticut General Assembly