From: Pura.ExecutiveSecretary
To: Flynn, Ermelinda
Subject: FW:
Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 8:08:17 AM

From: John Dutka <jdutka@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 9:56 PM
To: Attorney General <Attorney.General@ct.gov>; Governor Lamont <Governor.Lamont@ct.gov>; Pura.ExecutiveSecretary <Pura.ExecutiveSecretary@ct.gov>; Hochadel@senatedems.ct.gov; Hilda.Santiago@cga.ct.gov; Michael.quinn@cga.ct.gov; jack.fazzino@cga.ct.gov
Subject:

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Dear Governor Lamont, Attorney General Tong, PURA Chairman Wiehl, and Connecticut State Legislators,

I am writing to you today as a frustrated Connecticut resident and ratepayer to voice my absolute opposition to Eversource's recent filing for a $503 million delivery rate hike. Our state already shoulders the second-highest electricity rates and the absolute highest average monthly electric bills in the entire nation. Hitting local economies with an estimated 13% spike on top of these already crushing baseline rates is entirely unacceptable.

Eversource justifies this massive cash grab by citing general inflation and grid maintenance. However, the reality on the ground is that Connecticut citizens are already stretched past their absolute limits by the cost of living. We cannot continue to act as an open checkbook for a utility company that consistently prioritizes corporate returns over the financial well-being of the communities it supposedly serves.

Furthermore, I urge you not to let Eversource deflect this issue by pointing to their various hardship or assistance programs. While those safety nets are necessary for extreme circumstances, they are entirely irrelevant to the core crisis: Connecticut's baseline rates are universally punitive. Every single resident, family, and business owner in this state—regardless of income level—is being hammered by these costs. Electricity is a non-negotiable public necessity, not a luxury consumer good. No one in Connecticut should be forced to pay obscenely inflated rates just to keep the lights on, and offering charity programs does absolutely nothing to fix a fundamentally broken, state-approved rate structure.

For too long, the political response to this ongoing crisis has been characterized by a passive acceptance of the status quo. Failing to decisively confront this systemic issue is no longer an option. It is time for our elected officials to stop avoiding the core problem, end the history of inaction, and start aggressively prioritizing the real needs of their constituents over the financial interests of Eversource.

While I note the small, temporary supply rate adjustments taking effect this summer, they will be completely wiped out if this massive long-term delivery hike is approved for 2027. Furthermore, Eversource's attempt to leverage storm recovery costs as a threat—warning that the rate hike could balloon to 17% if they do not get their way—shows a blatant disregard for the public interest.

As my elected officials and regulators, you have the authority and the responsibility to protect the people of Connecticut from this financial exploitation. I urge you to:

Scrutinize every line item: Support Attorney General Tong's commitment to look at every padded expense, executive bonus, and profit margin during PURA's 350-day investigation.

Hold Eversource accountable: Demand that the utility find internal efficiencies and absorb operational inflation rather than reflexively passing 100% of the burden onto ratepayers.

Reject any and all increases: Issue a flat denial of this $503 million delivery rate hike request. Connecticut residents are already at a breaking point, and any further escalation of our utility burden is completely unsustainable and inexcusable.

The upcoming regulatory review cannot be business as usual. We need our state leadership to stand firmly between corporate overreach and the citizens who keep this state running. Please use your power to stop this rate increase and finally protect your constituents.

Thank you for your time, what I'm hoping will be your leadership, and your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
John Dutka
Meriden, CT