From: Jennifer
To: Pura.ExecutiveSecretary
Subject: Opposition to rate increase
Date: Monday, November 2, 2026 4:58:56 PM

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To: Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Re: Docket No. 26-05-10 — Opposition to Eversource's Proposed Distribution Rate Increase

Subject: Request for Rejection of Unjustified Revenue Increases, Excessive Returns, and Inadequately Supported Costs

Dear Commissioners:

I am a residential Eversource customer residing in Brookfield, Connecticut. I strongly oppose approval of Eversource's proposed distribution rate increase as filed.

My objection is grounded not simply in the financial burden this increase would impose, but in the fundamental regulatory principle that a monopoly utility must demonstrate that the rates it seeks to charge are just and reasonable.

Under Connecticut General Statutes § 16-22, the burden of proof rests with the utility. I ask PURA to apply that standard rigorously to every material component of this application.

1. Reject an excessive authorized return on equity

Eversource is requesting a 10.25% return on equity, above the approximately 9.7% national average cited by the Acadia Center in August 2026.

This difference warrants careful scrutiny.

A regulated utility's return should reflect the actual financial risks associated with providing monopoly electric distribution service. It should not provide shareholders with an unnecessarily generous return at the expense of captive ratepayers.

I request that PURA independently evaluate Eversource's cost-of-equity

models, comparable-company selection, capital-market assumptions, and requested capital structure.

Specifically, PURA should require Eversource to demonstrate why its requested 10.25% return is necessary rather than a lower, adequately supported rate.

I further request that PURA evaluate whether the proposed approximately 54% equity capital structure unnecessarily increases the weighted average cost of capital borne by customers.

2. Apply the lessons of PURA's July 2026 storm-cost decision

In July 2026, PURA rejected more than $500 million in storm-related recovery requests, including approximately $400 million in disputed interest charges.

Regulators also identified concerns involving excessive food and lodging expenses, contractor transportation, storm eligibility, and duplicate recovery.

These findings demonstrate that detailed examination of utility accounting can produce substantial consumer savings.

I ask PURA to require Eversource to reconcile the present application with all storm-cost determinations, previously recovered amounts, and any proposed securitization arrangements.

No expense disallowed in another proceeding should be recovered indirectly through this rate case. No expenditure should be recovered twice.

The company should demonstrate that every remaining storm-related expense has been properly classified and is supported by contemporaneous documentation.

3. Scrutinize executive compensation and corporate overhead

Eversource has publicly indicated that certain executive salaries and variable compensation are excluded from its rate request.

PURA should independently verify those representations rather than accept them without examination.

I request a detailed accounting of corporate overhead, affiliate charges,

executive compensation, incentive programs, administrative allocations, and any other costs assigned to Connecticut ratepayers.

Incentive compensation primarily linked to shareholder earnings, financial performance, or stock-market outcomes should not be recovered from customers unless a clear and legally supportable ratepayer benefit is demonstrated.

4. Reject unsupported automatic increases under the proposed four-year framework

I am particularly concerned about the proposed four-year performance-based rate plan.

A multi-year framework should not become a mechanism for guaranteeing revenue growth while limiting meaningful review of utility spending.

I ask PURA to reject any provision that permits additional rate increases without adequate cost verification, transparency, and enforceable performance standards.

Any approved performance incentives should be based on independently measured improvements in reliability, affordability, customer service, and operational efficiency.

Performance targets should be sufficiently demanding to produce genuine improvements rather than reward ordinary compliance with existing obligations.

Customers should receive appropriate financial protections when Eversource fails to meet those standards.

5. Require meaningful cost-efficiency analysis

Eversource must demonstrate that its proposed investments are necessary and represent reasonable value for customers.

I request that PURA examine whether the company has adequately considered competitive procurement, alternative technologies, operational efficiencies, and less expensive infrastructure solutions.

The mere existence of inflation, aging infrastructure, or increased operating costs does not establish that every requested expenditure is prudent.

The company must demonstrate why particular investments are necessary, why their proposed costs are reasonable, and why less expensive alternatives would not adequately serve customers.

6. Evaluate cumulative household affordability

My current monthly electricity bill is $175.78, including $68.63 in local delivery charges.

The proposed increase would add substantially to the cost of an essential service over which residential customers have very limited bargaining power.

The Authority should consider the cumulative impact of supply, transmission, distribution, public-benefit charges, and any separate storm-cost recovery mechanisms.

An expense may appear reasonable when examined in isolation yet contribute to an unreasonable total household burden.

Connecticut customers should not be expected to absorb every financial pressure experienced by a profitable utility while shareholders remain protected from ordinary business risks.

7. Specific requested regulatory action

I respectfully request that PURA:

1. Reject Eversource's requested revenue increase as filed unless the company meets its statutory burden of proof.
2. Independently evaluate and reduce the requested 10.25% return on equity if the evidence supports a lower authorized return.
3. Examine the proposed 54% equity capital structure and determine whether a less costly structure is appropriate.
4. Exclude imprudent, duplicative, excessive, or inadequately documented expenditures.
5. Require full reconciliation of storm-related costs with prior PURA decisions and any securitization arrangements.
6. Verify the exclusion of shareholder-oriented executive compensation and unreasonable corporate overhead.
7. Reject automatic multi-year adjustments that lack meaningful oversight, performance accountability, and consumer protections.

8. Require transparent public reporting of the costs, assumptions, and calculations underlying any approved increase.

Conclusion

Connecticut residents are not asking Eversource to operate without sufficient funding. We are asking the company to meet the same fundamental standards of financial responsibility, efficiency, and accountability that its customers must meet every day.

A monopoly utility must not be permitted to transfer unnecessary financial risks, inefficient expenditures, or excessive profit expectations to households that have no alternative distribution provider.

PURA's July 2026 storm-cost decision demonstrated the importance of independent scrutiny and the substantial savings that can result when regulators challenge inadequately justified charges.

I urge PURA to exercise that same scrutiny in Docket No. 26-05-10.

The company must prove that its requested rates are just and reasonable. Connecticut ratepayers should not pay a single dollar more than the evidence and the law justify.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Jones

Brookfield, Connecticut
Residential Eversource Customer