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November 10th, 2026

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

**RE: Docket No. 26-08-05– ANNUAL ENERGY STORAGE SOLUTIONS PROGRAM REVIEW – YEAR 6 – WRITTEN EXCEPTIONS**

Dear Mr. Gaudiosi,

The Connecticut Green Bank ("Green Bank") respectfully submits the following letter in lieu of Written Exceptions below into the above referenced docket ("Docket") in response to that certain Notice of Request for Written Exceptions and the Proposed Final Decision ("PFD") issued by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority ("PURA" or the "Authority") on October 29, 2026 (the "Notice").

The Green Bank greatly appreciates the Authority's extensive review and thoughtful refinement of the Energy Storage Solutions ("ESS") Program.

In particular, the Green Bank supports:

- **Adoption of the Bidirectional Charging Systems for Commercial & Industrial ("C&I")**
  - The Green Bank applauds PURA for its Proposed Final Decision to include bidirectional charging systems in C&I projects.

- **Eligible Providers and Payment Beneficiaries**
  - As the homeowner tax credit for battery systems ends and third-party ownership ("TPO") becomes more prevalent, Program Administrators have received an increasing number of inquiries regarding the recipients of performance payments. The approval of an Eligible Provider definition and requirements as well as the Eligible ("Institutional") Payment Beneficiary section is very important. This ensures that entities collecting payments on behalf of battery owners, including lenders, contractors, and original equipment manufacturers ("OEMs"), undergo an assessment of their experience and financial condition. This requirement protects battery owners who assign their payments to such entities and will give battery owners reassurance knowing they are trading their future performance incentive payments to a reputable entity who has been assessed for experience and financial health.

- **Improvements to the Enrollment Eligibility Timeframe**
    - Replacing multiple eligibility windows with a single requirement, which is submission of an application within six months of approval to energize, clarifies eligibility for battery owners and other stakeholders. This approach also reduces the need for case-by-case determinations and minimizes disputes regarding late applications. Eligible Contractors, Eligible Equipment, Eligible TPOs, etc., must still be approved in the Program before Battery Energy Storage Systems ("BESS") are sold and installed, ensuring that customers are not marketed or sold something that is not eligible for incentives. The risk is greater with a higher performance incentive and differing eligibility offerings.

- **Operational Control**
    - Allowing the Program Administrators the ability to request sample telemetry files during onboarding can help identify data issues before they affect battery performance data reporting, performance incentive payments, clawbacks, or benefit-cost results. The Program Administrators may present a more substantiated penalty proposal next year as there are differences in each OEM's share of the Program's BESS fleet and level of commitment to the Program, both of which continue to evolve. The Green Bank appreciates PURA's acknowledgement of the probation and or suspension language that the Program Administrators currently have in the Program if they fail to meet Program requirements, which will be used judiciously. Suspending an OEM, BESS Operator, etc., impacts current Program participants and puts them at risk for clawbacks. Where a financial penalty, even a small one, allows room for growth and better participation behavior.

- **Dashboard Additions**
    - Publishing performance payments by season, sector, and manufacturer provides stakeholders with a comprehensive view of participant earnings and complements the current data dashboard by enhancing transparency. This disclosure also encourages manufacturers whose equipment underperforms to pursue continuous improvement. Identifying dispatch events that coincide with the annual ISO-NE system peak demonstrates whether the program is reducing demand during the most valuable peak hour, a key driver of the benefits reflected in cost-effectiveness scores.

- **Maintaining the Insurance Requirements for Eligible Contractors, TPOs, etc.**
    - Maintaining automobile and workers' compensation insurance requirements for Eligible Contractors, TPO, etc. in the Program helps ensure that accidents or worker injuries occurring during installation are addressed through the contractor's or third-party owner's insurance coverage. These requirements also help protect customers from disruptions to project completion or ongoing service resulting from an uninsured provider's financial difficulties.

- **Removing Standing Order 2 and 7**

- Removing Standing Order 2 and 7 is greatly appreciated as the elimination of these two reoccurring compliance requirements will reduce the administrative burden on the Program Administrators and allow resources to be redirected toward program implementation, performance monitoring, and the continued delivery of benefits to ratepayers. The Eligible Equipment is updated on the website as the integrations are approved in both Electric Distribution Companies ("EDC") territories. The Energy Storage data is updated as frequently as possible on the data dashboard[1]. The Green Bank supports efforts to streamline regulatory reporting where existing program processes provide sufficient oversight and transparency.

While the Green Bank supports the majority of PURA's determinations, the Green Bank respectfully submits some limited exceptions and requests for clarification in a small number of areas below.

## EXCEPTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

### Front of the Meter ("FTM") Working Group

The Green Bank appreciates the opportunity to administer (or co-administer) the FTM working group and respectfully requests that PURA considers the following updates to the Order and that doing so is consistent with CGS 16-243ee (i.e., Section 2 of Public Act 21-53, as amended).

Request for a Screening Phase

The Green Bank supports the Authority's interest in determining whether FTM storage can provide net benefits to Connecticut ratepayers. Green Bank respectfully requests that the Authority establish a screening phase before directing the full FTM Storage Working Group process. The purpose of the initial screening phase would be to determine whether the distribution-level value available to FTM storage is sufficient to warrant a full working group and tariff development effort.

The value stack available to a retail FTM storage tariff is narrow. As the PFD recognizes, a retail tariff cannot compensate FTM storage for wholesale energy or ancillary service transactions, and compensation must be structured to avoid duplicating wholesale market revenues (PFD, pp. 38–39). It is not yet clear whether the remaining value, after meeting the Authority's ratepayer protection requirements, is sufficient to address the revenue gap identified by developers.

Green Bank proposes to submit an interim report to the Authority by March 1, 2027. The interim report would include:

- A preliminary assessment by the current ESS EM&V consultant of the distribution-level value available to FTM storage[2] and whether that value could support a viable tariff;

[1] https://energystoragect.com/ess-performance-report/

[2] It is the Green Bank's understanding that the Authority is interested in evaluating FTM storage that may or may not be additionally participating in the wholesale market.

- Indicative bids for three scopes of work that together address the 11 topics identified in the PFD: (A) technical, economic, and rate design analysis; (B) working group facilitation and management; and (C) legal and regulatory analysis; and
- A go/no-go recommendation on proceeding with the full working group scope.

Based on the interim report and indicative bids, Green Bank requests that the Authority confirm whether Green Bank should proceed with the full working group scope, a subset of the scopes or topics, or not proceed. Green Bank further requests that the deadline for the FTM Working Group formation and the Storage Tariff Report be set relative to the date of the Authority's confirmation.

EDC Participation

Regardless of whether the Authority adopts the screening phase, Green Bank requests that the Authority direct the EDCs to participate in the working group, rather than inviting them to participate. The analysis required by the PFD depends on information only the EDCs hold, including cost-of-service data, load and hosting capacity data, metering requirements and costs, and draft rate calculations. Green Bank requests that the Authority direct the EDCs to provide data and make relevant staff available as needed to support the working group's analysis.

Flexibility in Determining Value

If the working group proceeds, Green Bank requests flexibility in how the value of FTM storage is assessed. Green Bank strongly supports the Authority's requirement that any FTM storage tariff deliver net benefits to Connecticut ratepayers, and this request is not intended to lower that standard or to revisit the established record on how storage delivers ratepayer value through the ESS Program. The PFD requires that any recommended FTM tariff demonstrate a CT-RIM score of at least 1.4, consistent with the ESS Program (PFD, p. 39).

A threshold was established for a behind-the-meter incentive program in Docket No. 17-12-03RE03 which states, "the Authority directs the CGB to design upfront incentives, using the 2021 AESC, designed to deliver a RIM of 1.4 over the first three-year Program cycle."[3] The Program Ratepayer Impact Measurement ("RIM") is what has historically been used in ESS rather than the Connecticut Ratepayer Impact Measurement ("CT-RIM") though this data point has been provided in previous annual reports as well as interrogatories as requested. The CT-RIM may be a harder measurement for the Program and the FTM tariff to meet as a lot of what storage does has regional benefits. The 1.4 Program RIM target was set for an incentive program for customer-sited batteries, and a retail FTM tariff has a different cost structure.

A retail tariff that compensates FTM storage only for measured distribution-level benefits has a different cost structure, and the threshold that best ensures robust ratepayer benefit may differ. It may also be useful to identify the operating characteristics that drive ratepayer value, such as siting behind highly loaded substations or performance during a minimum percentage of peak hours, and design eligibility and compensation around those characteristics so that benefits are delivered reliably. Green Bank requests that the working group be permitted to recommend an

3 https://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/2nddockcurr.nsf/8e6fc37a54110e3e852576190052b64d/6991ef77ba07bae185258752007994f7/$FILE/171203RE03-072821.pdf

appropriate valuation methodology and threshold, using the ESS Program RIM as the starting point and ensuring the result provides ratepayer protection.

Role of the Green Bank

If the working group proceeds, Green Bank requests that the Authority clarify that Green Bank's role is to convene and facilitate the working group. The FTM Storage Tariff Report would present both consensus and non-consensus positions of working group participants and should not be construed as the position of the Green Bank. Green Bank should retain the ability to file its own comments in any subsequent proceeding on an FTM storage tariff.

Cross-Filing

The Green Bank recommends that this report be cross-filed in the Successor Docket No. 26-06-04, and any other dockets PURA deems appropriate. Given the breadth of topics the report must address, the Green Bank recommends keeping this working group separate from other proposed working groups in other dockets to ensure it can meet all goals established by PURA within the specified timeframes to avoid scope creep.

**Proposed Change to Docket No. 26-08-05 Standing Order 16 Regarding Clawback Fee Waivers Submission Date**

The Green Bank continues to face challenges meeting the November 1 deadline for submitting clawback fee waiver requests under Standing Order 16 in Docket No. 26-08-05. For two consecutive years, final performance incentive payments data compiled by the DERMS and validated by the EDCs, has not been made available by that deadline. Reliance on estimated performance incentive payments creates uncertainty in waiver recommendations and does not serve customers or ratepayers, particularly because Standing Order 16 requires clawback fees to be offset against eligible performance incentive payments before direct collection from customers is pursued.

The Green Bank respectfully requests that the annual filing deadline under Standing Order 16 in Docket No. 26-08-05 and any successor clawback orders in subsequent Final Decisions, be moved from November 1 to December 1 to better align with the final performance incentive payment timing. The schedule should provide sufficient time after payments are finalized to reconcile project-level amounts, evaluate proposed waivers, and update the required RIM analysis. Final payment data is necessary to determine the incentive payments available to offset clawback fees and to assess reliably the ratepayer impacts of granting or denying waivers. Aligning the deadline with this process would reduce reliance on estimates, minimize subsequent corrections, and provide the Authority with a more complete and accurate consolidated submission.

If final performance incentive payments are not provided by DERMS providers and validated by EDCs in time to support a December 1 filing, the deadline should be extended to allow sufficient time for reconciliation and review after their completion and before the January 15 RAM filings are due. If that sequence is not feasible, the Green Bank respectfully requests that the deadline under Order 5 for reporting Program Administrator costs in the RAM filings be moved to

February 15, allowing summer performance incentive payments and clawback totals to be finalized before filing.

In Standing Order 16, PURA should determine whether no third-party performance incentive payments fees are allowed on customers receiving clawbacks or if the third-party performance incentive fee should be calculated after the clawbacks have been netted against eligible performance payments as both of those options would ensure that recovering ratepayer's dollars takes precedence over fees paid to third parties. PURA could also authorize the PAs to pursue recovery of outstanding clawback amounts from OEMs, TPOs, BESS Operators, DERMS or other responsible third parties when the PAs determine that noncompliance resulted from failures attributable to those entities rather than customer actions.

**Green Bank Access to All Battery and EV Interconnection Applications and Managed Charging Enrollments**

Following the Application Working Group's report, the Program Administrators reduced some application requirements as the data was anticipated to be included in the interconnection application for each project. For example, the Green Bank needs to confirm that an interconnection application is open at the time of incentive reservation approval. At this time, the need for expanded access to PowerClerk interconnection data to support the enrollment process is being requested by the Green Bank. Limited access to PowerClerk data creates enrollment challenges, strains relationships with customers and applicants, and generates additional unnecessary work for customers, applicants, Program Administrators, and the EDCs' interconnection teams. To address these issues, the Green Bank proposes the EDCs provide, through established secure channels, all PowerClerk interconnection records for battery storage, bidirectional electric vehicle supply equipment, and managed charging enrollment data by January 1st, 2027 to ensure a better application experience for ESS participants.

With the allowance of commercial bidirectional charging systems in Energy Storage Solutions, the Green Bank also needs access to Managed Charging Program enrollment data to cross-check participation and prevent dual enrollment in managed charging and Energy Storage Solutions. Providing access to managed charging enrollment data will also be needed to support any future program expansion efforts to expand bidirectional charging eligibility to residential use cases. The Green Bank supports the Authority's determination that dual enrollment in the ESS and managed charging programs is "not an immediate priority." Given the significantly higher incentive potential under ESS, the Green Bank anticipates that managed charging participants may be interested in switching their enrollment to ESS if residential bidirectional charging system eligibility is approved in the future. The Green Bank recommends evaluating this topic during the Docket No. 27-08-05 cycle and following the August 1, 2027, compliance filing focused on residential bidirectional charging system enrollment eligibility in ESS.

The Green Bank also notes that enrollment in the EDCs' managed charging programs has slowed significantly in 2026 since eligibility for their respective home EV charging and wiring rebates was limited to income-qualified participants. Delivering this rebate has previously provided the

EDCs with a smooth way to enroll customers at-scale in their managed charging programs. The Green Bank encourages the Authority to keep these managed charging customer enrollment trends in mind as it considers how to best leverage bidirectional charging systems for long-term grid resilience.

Together, access to interconnection records and managed charging enrollment data would help identify eligible projects earlier, reduce duplicative information requests, and prevent enrollment issues caused by unavailable data.

**Self-Enrollment**

The Green Bank has identified a gap in the Program's enrollment requirements that allows projects to enroll without an Eligible Contractor (described in the current Program Manual as "Self-Enrollment"[4]). This gap is inconsistent with PURA's determination that all Eligible Contractors must meet insurance requirements. This gap also would allow contractors to operate and enroll customers in the Program without any oversight of their business practices. To address this issue, the Green Bank proposes revising the Program Manual to remove the Self-Enrollment option and require an Eligible Provider for all enrollment pathways.

For context, the Self-Enrollment pathway was approved by PURA in 2022[5] to allow certain Tesla customers to access Active-Only enrollment. At the time, Tesla opted not to participate in ESS as an Eligible Contractor or Eligible Equipment, as Tesla opposed the Passive Dispatch design. With the launch of "Construct 5" in April 2026, Tesla fully joined ESS and this pathway is no longer utilized by new customers.

**Revised Avoided Energy Supply Cost Study ("AESC Study") Issuance**

The Evaluation Measurement and Verification ("EM&V") provider for Energy Storage Solutions has indicated that the revised AESC Study has not yet been released and is expected in 2027. Depending on its release date and the scope of the revisions, the study may affect the delivery of the Program's three-year and annual reports. Because the changes to the AESC Study remain unknown, it is not yet possible to determine the extent of any required updates to the BCA calculator or whether those updates can be completed in time to meet the June 15 deadline. Accordingly, if the revised AESC Study is released before May 2027, it is proposed that the deadline under Order 4 be extended to August 1 to align with the deadline under Order 3.

[4] Energy Storage Solutions Program Manual, Sec. 3. May 19, 2026
[5] Docket No. 22-08-05 Decision (ESS Year 2 Review). December 21, 2022

The Green Bank greatly appreciates the opportunity to contribute and the Authority's consideration of the above Written Exceptions.

Respectfully submitted,

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