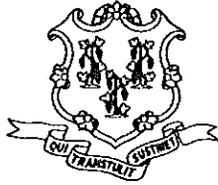


State Of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
ROOM 3900
TELEPHONE: 860-240-0430

September 2, 2014

Arthur House, Chairman
John W. Betkoski III, Vice Chairman
Michael Caron, Commissioner
Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Chairman House, Vice Chairman Betkoski and Commissioner Caron:

As members of the Connecticut General Assembly, we are writing regarding Connecticut Light and Power Company's (CL&P) request to increase its fixed monthly service fee and rate of return. Given that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority is in the process of holding public hearings on this matter, we respectfully request that you consider the harmful effect CL&P's requests will have on our state's citizens and small businesses, if approved.

As you are already aware, CL&P has proposed to increase its fixed monthly service fee by 60 percent for all residential customers and 45 percent for small business customers regardless how much energy they consume. In addition to creating a significant economic hardship on low-income residents already struggling to pay for basic necessities like food and utilities, this increase would essentially penalize residents and businesses that use less electricity or promote energy efficiency. In addition, this proposed increase also stands to adversely impact Connecticut's renewable energy investments in future years. If we as a state accept the argument that raising consumer costs is justified by the proliferation of fuel cells, solar, wind and other renewables, it will discourage future investment in these beneficial technologies and further limit our progress towards ensuring greater access to low-cost, environmentally beneficial energy sources. This conflict between incentivizing the expansion of renewable energy sources in our state and the fact that these investments have triggered detrimental rate hikes by utility companies has created an unsustainable system in our energy sector that must be revisited in future legislative sessions.

Given that our state's energy model is predicated upon the principles of reducing energy costs for our citizens and more efficient energy usage, we believe that implementing CL&P's fixed monthly service fee proposal would be detrimental to Connecticut achieving its long-term energy goals. And while we are respectful of the fact that CL&P is facing many financial challenges as they work to upgrade our state's electric grid, we agree that a rate of return increase to 10.2 cents per dollar would place an unreasonable burden on our ratepayers.

During our tenure in the General Assembly, we have been pleased to have a strong working relationship with CL&P and are appreciative of the economic and logistical realities they are forced to navigate in today's ever-changing energy landscape. But as public servants, we cannot overlook the negative impact the Company's proposed measures would have on working families and small businesses throughout the state. We respectfully request that PURA take these concerns into account when rendering its decision in the weeks to come.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration with regards to this important issue. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

Bob Duff
25th Senate District

Joe Aresimowicz, House Majority Leader
30th House District

Dante' Bartolomeo
13th Senate District

Eric D. Coleman
2nd Senate District

Paul R. Doyle
9th Senate District

Joan V. Hartley
15th Senate District

Gary D. LeBeau
3rd Senate District

Edward Meyer
12th Senate District

Gayle S. Slossberg
14th Senate District

James Albis
99th House District

David Arconti
109th House District

Lonnie Reed
102nd House District

Andres Ayala
23rd Senate District

Steve Cassano
4th Senate District

Joseph J. Crisco
17th Senate District

Terry B. Gerratana
6th Senate District

Gary A. Holder-Winfield
10th Senate District

Carlo Leone
27th Senate District

Catherine A. Osten
19th Senate District

Andrea L. Stillman
20th Senate District

Emil "Buddy" Altobello
82nd House District

Terry Backer
121st House District

Timothy R. Bowles
42nd House District

Theresa W. Conroy
105th House District

Stephen D. Dargan
115th House District

Mike Demicco
21st House District

Mae M. Flexer
44th House District

Bob Godfrey
110th House District

John K. Hampton
16th House District

Claire L. Janowski
56th House District

Timothy D. Larson
11th House District

Rick Lopes
24th House District

Robert W. Megna
97th House District

Bruce V. Morris
140th House District

Frank N. Nicastro
79th House District

Chris Perone
137th House District

Matthew Ritter
1st House District

Juan R. Candelaria
95th House District

Michael D'Agostino
91st House District

Paul Davis
117th House District

Louis P. Esposito
116th House District

Linda M. Gentile
104th House District

Gregory Haddad
54th House District

John "Jack" F. Hennessy
127th House District

Ed Jutila
37th House District

Matthew Lesser
100th House District

James Maroney
119th House District

Russell A. Morin
28th House District

Edward E. Moukawsher
40th House District

Linda A. Orange
48th House District

Elizabeth B. Ritter
38th House District

Jason Rojas
9th House District

Kevin Ryan
139th House District

Hilda E. Santiago
84th House District

Joseph C. Serra
33rd House District

Peter A. Tercyak
26th House District

Diana S. Urban
43rd House District

Joe Verrengia
20th House District

Toni E. Walker
93rd House District

Roberta B. Willis
64th House District

David Zoni
81st House District

Ezequiel Santiago
130th House District

Brian H. Sear
47th House District

Jonathan Steinberg
136th House District

William Tong
147th House District

Edwin Vargas
6th House District

Thomas A. Vicino
35th House District

Patricia M. Widlitz
98th House District

Elissa T. Wright
41st House District

Susan M. Johnson
49th House District

CC: Nicholas E. Neely, Acting Executive Secretary