



State of Connecticut

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SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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January 31, 2019

Mr. James J. Judge
President and Chief Executive Officer
Eversource Energy
107 Selden Street
Berlin, CT 06037

Dear Mr. Judge:

In light of a request by Eversource seeking permission to charge ratepayers for emergency repair costs following recent storms, I am seeking additional information from Eversource about your history of rate increases and pushing costs onto ratepayers.

I would like to know if your most recent proposal to increase rates on customers following recent storms is a temporary rate increase and if rates will decrease once you have recovered identified funds, or if rates will remain elevated even after you have collected the \$152.5 million you are requesting. I would also like to know if this situation is similar to storm-related rate increases in 2013, and if rates were ever lowered once those funds were recovered for the 2013 storms.

As you are well aware, Eversource has sought out multiple rate increases in recent years, asking for more of Connecticut residents time and again. Connecticut in particular has some of the highest energy costs for ratepayers in the country. Therefore, any time Eversource asks for more from ratepayers, that burden weighs heavy on residents, especially those who are already struggling to make ends meet.

I understand that as a utility providing service to millions of people, small changes can lead to very large expenses. However, I also expect Eversource to plan accordingly for severe weather and have contingency plans in place.

To better understand your most recent request and how rate increases have been implemented and utilized in recent years, I would like to request a complete history of your rate increase requests and implemented rate increases from the past 10 years. I would like to know how much revenue was generated from these rate increases paid for by Connecticut residents and how this income was spent by the utility. I also would like more information about your 2013 \$365 million storm-related rate increase and what happened to rates following the collection of these funds. Finally, I would like to know how long you intend to increase rates to pay off your recent storm expenses and if rates will decrease once you have collected the requested funds.

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At first glance, your most recent request to push storm-related expenses onto ratepayers seems extreme to me and I fear is a burden our residents cannot shoulder at a time they are already facing increased energy costs from Eversource. I would like to also see any information you have about why Eversource was not financially prepared to handle responding to the recent storms.

I look forward to reviewing any additional information you can provide to explain your rationale for seeking more from ratepayers again.

Sincerely,



Len Fasano
Senate Republican Leader