



State of Connecticut
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August 20, 2020

Marissa Paslick Gillett, Chairperson
Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Chairman Gillett:

I am writing to seek clarification on the decision making of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and the authority's role in approving Eversource's most recent rate increases in 2017 and 2020.

As you are aware, PURA approved rate increases in 2017 (Docket 17-10-46) and rate increases this year (Docket 20-01-01). In recent days, you have vowed to review recent rate increases and have spoken about the need for investigations to hold Eversource accountable to ratepayers. These investigations will undoubtedly examine the very rate increases PURA previously approved in a rate review process overseen by the Attorney General. Therefore, I have the following questions:

- 1) Can you identify any errors in information provided to PURA or any errors in the Authority's decision-making process that led PURA to approve rate increases in 2017 and 2020?
- 2) Specific questions regarding the 2017 rate increase (Docket 17-10-46):
 - a. What were the improvements Eversource was seeking to recover costs?
 - b. Why was demand for energy decreasing and why did that result in higher rates?
 - c. Why should Eversource have been entitled to depreciation if it was being compensated for \$2 billion in improvements?
- 3) Specific questions regarding the 2020 rate increase (Docket 20-01-01):
 - a. Why does demand continue to decrease and what are your projections for continued decreases in demand for the next 10 years?
 - b. If the agreement reached to purchase energy from Millstone did not take place, where else would the state be able to get zero-carbon emissions energy to satisfy the statutory goals?

I understand that PURA is investigating both Eversource's rate increases approved earlier this year as well as utility companies' responses to Tropical Storm Isaias. It has also been announced that the General Assembly's Energy and Technology Committee will hold a bipartisan informational hearing to begin

looking at these same issues on August 27, 2020. It is imperative that lawmakers hear from all perspectives in these proceedings and I ask that you provide responses to these questions so that we can fully understand the history of the situation at hand to determine how to best help ratepayers.

While PURA is overseen by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, not the legislature, I hope we both agree that executive branch agencies and authorities must be fully transparent with the legislature so we can improve how ratepayers are being represented and protected. We are asking our utilities to be fully open, and we need the same of our state regulators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Len Fasano', with a stylized, cursive script.

Len Fasano
Senate Republican Leader