

Honored Chairs Sen. Needleman and Rep. Arconti and Distinguished Members of the Energy and Technology Committee

In the past months, years, and decades we have seen utility companies failing ratepayers in Connecticut. And now, the July 1, 2020 rate increase and response to tropical storm Isis are another blow to everyone in our great state.

In 2020 we have the knowledge, technologies, and resources to generate and distribute energy in a reliable, clean, and just way. Due to the crisis we are in with climate change and racial injustice the time is ripe for restructuring the utilities in a way that meets the needs of our planet and our society in an urgent, just, and sustainable way. The Energy and Technology Committee and our elected officials must demand that Connecticut policies and investments in our public utilities align with our state's climate goals.

I am a mother, a solar contractor, and a climate activist. Last year I worked to get Region 18 school district to commit to 100% clean energy. I am proud and thrilled to say on June 3, 2020, Region 18 made a commitment to achieving 100% clean energy in ten years by turning their attention to the feasibility of technologies such as electric school buses, air-source heat pumps, and changing the source of electricity.

This is an incredible step. I anticipate a ripple effect in our state with towns, cities, and school districts making similar commitments. Ratepayers need this, our kids need this. We need the support of the utilities to help us make this commitment a reality.

I strongly endorse the following provisions as part of restructuring the public utilities:

- Expand the Residential Solar Investment Program
- Expand Virtual Net Metering
- Keep Solar Net Metering
- Develop local renewable energy options for microgrids and community solar
- Expand Energy Storage
- Clarify the property tax exemption for solar and storage
- Repeal the Pipeline Tax
- Upgrade the utility grid with Underground Power Lines
- Curb Excessive Profit for Public Utility Companies

We have the opportunity to create a public utility that works with the residents of the state, the ratepayers, and with the earth's systems, we are all reliant on. Please take the necessary steps to make this happen. Thank you for your consideration as you deliberate on [LCO 3920 An Act Concerning Emergency Response by Electric Distribution Companies and Revising the Regulation of Other Public Utilities](#).

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