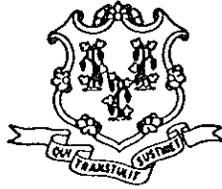


**State of Connecticut**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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

August 27, 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 Co-Chairs of the Connecticut General Assembly's Energy & Technology Committee, 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.

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.

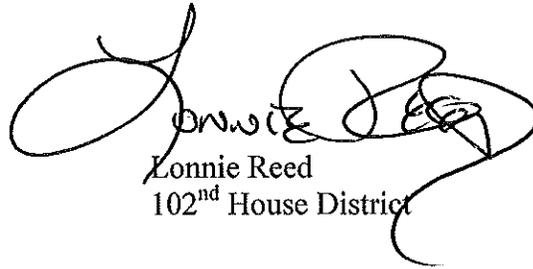
During our tenure as Energy Committee Chairs, we have been pleased to have a strong working relationship with CL&P and are appreciative of the economic and logistical realities they are forced to navigate in today's ever-changing energy landscape. But as public servants, we cannot overlook the negative 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  
25<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Lonnie Reed  
102<sup>nd</sup> House District

CC: Nicholas E. Neely, Acting Executive Secretary