



State Representative

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Dear Neighbor,

I am writing to you to tell you about a bill that passed unanimously during this legislation session. S.B. 23 An Act Enhancing Emergency Preparedness and Response. This bill will improve the state's emergency response to widespread power outages following severe storms, like last year's Tropical Storm Irene and the October Nor'easter.

Having this legislation in place is our way of ensuring that our residents don't have to deal with some of the issues that left hundreds of residents without power across the state during those severe storms last year. We voted on a bill that brings peace of mind, since it forces utility companies to be proactive in preparing and responding for future storms.

A key part of the bill requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to study and establish minimum emergency preparation and response performance standards for each electric and gas company in Connecticut. Noncompliance with the performance standards could result in penalties of up to 2.5% of the utility's annual distribution revenue. The penalties would be assessed as a credit on customer bills, and would not be recoverable by the utilities through increased rates.

The bill will require companies to provide credits to customers if service outages exceed more than ten percent of a company's customers for over 24 hours.

PURA must also study and create a mechanism through which electric distribution companies would reimburse residential customers for spoilage of food or refrigerated medicine after long power outages.

Also, the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection must now develop procedures to make sure roads are cleared for first responders.

The legislation also establishes a \$15 million micro-grid and loan pilot program to support local distributed electricity generation at hospitals, police and fire stations, prisons, water treatment plants and other critical locations.

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Sincerely,



Kim Rose
