

March 29, 2021

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Mr. Jeff Jeffrey R. Gaudiosi, Esq.

Executive Secretary

Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

10 Franklin Square

New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Commissioners of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority:

On behalf of the residents and ratepayers of the Town of Cheshire, the Cheshire Energy Commission would like to express its deep concern over comments reportedly made by Eversource CEO Jim Judge regarding his apparent expectation that regulators will eventually permit the utility to recover tens of millions of dollars from ratepayers for costs related to Tropical Storm Isaias. As reported in the Hartford Courant last month, the article stated "... *'We expect, as we have in the past, that cost recovery would be allowed for these costs, as they were prudent,' (Eversource CEO Jim) Judge said in response to an analyst's question on a conference call discussing Eversource's fourth-quarter and 2020 financial results...*"

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

There has been an already troubling track record of poor performance by Eversource in ~~the~~ their preparation and response to other storms in our recent past. There have been multiple weather events over the last decade resulting in multiple-day prolonged outages to our residents, ~~and~~ poor communication from Eversource to customers and local governments on restoration efforts, and interventions put in place several times by the state legislature as a result.

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

The Town of Cheshire was among the most severely impacted municipalities as a result of Tropical Storm Isaias. Ratepayers in Cheshire and across the state already pay among the highest rates in the continental United States for our energy, while Eversource shareholders enjoyed a nearly one-third increase in net profits during 2020. The Cheshire Energy Commission fully appreciates and supports reasonable cost-recovery from ratepayers for purposes of maintaining a reliable grid to deliver power to its customers, including the reasonable and necessary costs associated with repair/upkeep, storm preparation/response, and infrastructure improvements. However, the ratepayers should NOT be held responsible for costs that in any way are attributable to the utility's continued alleged poor preparation and planning for forecasted severe weather events like Tropical Storm Isaias. Should PURA concur that Eversource was ill-prepared, the Cheshire Energy Commission urges a unanimous rejection of any cost-recovery requests by Eversource on the backs of ratepayers.

Respectfully submitted,

The Cheshire Energy Commission

~~Rich Ogurik~~ Richard Ogurick, Chairman

David Gavin, Commissioner

Walter Gayeski, Commissioner

George Romania, Commissioner

Christopher Smith, Vice Chairman

Daniel Knudsen, Commissioner

Ryan O'Grady, Commissioner

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

Formatted: Font: 11 pt