



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

Daniel E. Carter, First Selectman
Bryan Terzian, Selectman
Richard C. Straiton, Selectman

The Office of Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

August 29, 2024

Dear Governor Lamont,

Connecticut electric rates are already among the highest electric rates in the country, which makes the recent increases to the Rate Adjustment Mechanism Charges even harder for our residents to afford. In addition, charges have created an estimated \$300k to \$400k hole in our town budget this year.

We appreciate Chair Marissa Gillett's dissenting vote and recognize that PURA should have allowed the recovery of costs over a period of 2-3 years, instead of 10 months. While PURA thought that covering the RAM rate adjustments with the decrease in standard service rates would mitigate rate shock, they couldn't have been more wrong. Coupled with the additional increase for EV charging infrastructure, PURA is moving backward to the time where they rubber stamped rate hikes with no regard for the ratepayer.

We urge you to ask PURA to reconsider the recent decision under CGS 4-181a and spread out the investment in our EV charging infrastructure over time. We understand getting EV vehicles on the road is a laudable goal, but more thought should be given to the burden on the ratepayers and whether the cost should be on the ratepayers alone.

We applaud you for stating publicly that you are open to practical solutions to lowering energy costs, so please take action. Push the legislature to focus on energy in the next legislative session, special or regular. It is difficult to overcome the failure of deregulating our electric industry, but something has to give. Our residents deserve affordable electricity. And the next time the legislature wants to use Public Benefits charges as a way to pay for things that taxes should be used for, please exercise your power to veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel E. Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "C".

Daniel E. Carter
First Selectman, Town of Bethel
On behalf of the Board of Selectmen

CC: Senator Eric Berthel
Senator Tony Hwang
Representative Raghiv Allie-Brennan
Representative Martin Foncello