

After the Snowstorm, a Time to Take Action

After suffering through power outages of more than a week, Ridgefield residents are justifiably angry – and looking for answers. How is it that, so soon after the supposed “lessons” of Hurricane Irene, we were once again subjected to darkness, spoiled food, school closings, and safety hazards in our homes and along our roads? The bigger question is this: if we don’t make fundamental changes now, after this second major outage in just a few months, how can we expect to be prepared for the NEXT power failure, which, God forbid, could occur during the heart of winter, resulting in loss of life?

It is time to take action. The nation’s 15-year experiment with deregulating power companies has proven to be a failure in Connecticut. Designed to provide consumers with choices of energy providers, and competitive prices, the results in our state have been dismal. The majority of residents still buy power at standard market prices from one provider, Connecticut Light & Power. Our rates are among the nation’s highest, second only to Hawaii’s. And satisfaction rates of customers continue to be among the lowest in the country. Meanwhile, Northeast Utilities, CL&P’s parent, earned \$191.4 million in profits in the first half of 2011, up 21 percent from the same 2010 quarter mainly due to cost reductions, and profits as its CL&P unit more than doubled. Such profits were good news for shareholders, but offered little solace to the hundreds of thousands of Connecticut residents who shivered in the dark, or to the elderly and young families who took refuge in shelters.

It is time to ask the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control to take a fresh look at deregulation and the role it may be playing in the level of service we are receiving, and the rates we are paying for that service. It is time to ask for an honest, objective, bi-partisan review to see if “re-regulation” might be the right course for overseeing power companies in Connecticut, a course that has been successfully followed in several other states.

I ask you to please sign the attached petition TODAY by clicking “Yes” to ask our duly elected officials in Hartford to review this question and create a plan to hold our power companies accountable so we may reliably receive the energy on which our families depend.

Thank you.

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We the undersigned hereby petition (1) the State of Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control, (2) Donald E. Williams, Jr., President *Pro Tempore* of the Connecticut State Senate, and (3) Christopher G. Donovan, Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives, to formally investigate the potential, and formulate an action plan, for holding power companies accountable for their performance by re-regulating the energy industry in the State of Connecticut.

PETITION

We, the undersigned, hereby petition the State of Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control, State Senator Don Williams, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and Speaker of the House Representative Chris Donovan to formally investigate and formulate an action plan to regulate power companies in the State of Connecticut.

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

STREET ADDRESS

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(c) I, the CIRCULATOR of this petition page, do hereby attest and state under penalties of false statement that my address is _____ in the Town of _____, that each person whose signature appears on this page signed the same in person in my presence, that I either know each such signer or that each signer satisfactorily identified himself or herself to me, and that all the signatures on said page(s) were obtained not earlier than six months prior to the filing of said petition.

Dated at _____, Connecticut, this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Signature of Circulator