January 20, 2023

To the Legislative Commission on the Future of the Long Island Power Authority:

The requirement by LIPA that Electric Service Companies (or ESCO’s) operate under the LI Choice Program eliminates any monetary benefits to rate payers that may be achieved with Community Choice Aggregation. This locks Long Island rate payers into paying the highest energy costs in the nation, is anti-competitive, suppresses the adoption of renewable energy on Long Island, contradicts all greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals at the federal, state and local levels and makes us more vulnerable to grid failure from storms and attacks on the grid. It is cynical and disgraceful. I don’t know how they have gotten away with this obstructionist ploy to cover the costs of their prior commitments for overbuilding transmission and distribution infrastructure that has only served the interests of PSEG investors. This must end. Wholesale and retail energy markets need to be competitive. If they are, not only will costs be brought down for rate payers, but we will be able to choose renewable energy for our homes and businesses, direct our dollars to build local energy assets that are more resilient and ultimately create local ‘transactive’ energy markets where people can buy and sell energy with their neighbors. All this will increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We need to enable municipal energy coops and independent energy aggregators to serve Long Island and create tariffs that encourage small, distributed energy ‘pro-sumers’. Streamlined and standardized interconnection permits and rate structures that reward the full value stack of solar, storage and smart energy management software need to be established. Full public disclosure on all decision making should be required of LIPA on all RFP selections they make. Being able to operate in the dark behind closed doors invites malfeasance. All load data should be made public. Last but not least, LIPA needs to be subject to the oversight of the Public Service Commission and held truly accountable to citizen watch and not be able to regulate itself.

Krae Van Sickle

Co-Founder Drawdown East End

516 769 7877

krae@krae.net