To: LIPA Commission Advisory Committee

Re: Future of the Long Island Power Authority

My name is Regina Cohn, and I have been a resident of Long Island and the Rockaways for fifty years. I urge you to recommend a fully public LIPA, which will result in lower rates for us as residents and ratepayers, and would provide more transparency and accountability via local resident input. I urge this Commission to keep to its timeline and introduce legislation in time to pass this session.

I care about this issue because our family has lived through much that could be avoided in the future. Electric rates are too high. Our family was negatively impacted by both Superstorm Sandy, when we and our entire neighborhood were without power for two weeks, and Tropical Storm Isaias.

A new Community Board must be established to replace the existing Advisory Board with a new Board comprised of representatives from diverse sectors and backgrounds with local geographic representation, representing all LIPA service territory. It must play a leading role in engaging communities across the service territory in determining rate structure, accessing energy programs, implementing renewable energy projects, providing support during outrages and other emergencies, and developing initiatives to help the utility realize its mission of serving the local community. It must be resourced with research support, technical assistance, and a budget.

A restructured LIPA must spend more of its revenues for the benefit of our communities. It should reinvest revenues to enhance resiliency, like burying our lines and support community solar, thermal energy networks, and more wide-ranging conservation programs.

Through restructuring, the current employees represented by IBEW Local 1049 should have their status retained in a manner that is acceptable to them.

A restructured LIPA must spend more of its revenues for the benefit of our communities. Rather than continue the decades-long habit of spending money on expensive management fees for private corporations, which diverts funds from public use, LIPA can and should commit to invest in Long Island and the Rockaways.

Thank you for your work on this important project, and your consideration.