21 January 2023

Dear members of the Legislative Commission on the Future of the Long Island Power Authority:

Given the impacts of climate change and the need for low/no-carbon resilient power on Long Island, it is essential to change the operating model of LIPA to meet future needs. Rather than emphasize rate of return to PSEG investors through the existing grid, LIPA must incentivize decentralized renewable power sources that [literally] empower ratepayers to install solar/battery and other renewable power in individual, neighborhood and community microgrid systems. Microgrids are more likely to remain operational after the catastrophic storms predicted by virtually every global warming scenario. They will provide life-saving emergency power while wider services are restored and become the foundation for evolving a sustainable Long Island.

Such structural change requires alteration of the LIPA business model which remains tethered to the 20th century infrastructure of LILCO. Transitioning LIPA to an organization that is truly of utility to its Long Island ratepayers necessitates political will, accountability and oversight by the Public Service Commission, and educating ratepayers to become power producers as well as consumers. Creating financial incentives for renewable energy through subsidies, and buying the power at fair rates are essential to motivate ratepayers. Making permits and interconnections simple and affordable is vital.

To transition, giving consumers the option to choose cost effective renewable power sources through Community Choice Aggregation is a critical step. The so-called LI Choice program is an inadequate sham that fails to provide meaningful value.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

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