**Verbal Testimony**

My name is Francesca Rheannon. I am a resident of East Hampton, NY, where I serve on the EH Town Energy And Sustainability Advisory Committee. I am also co-chair of the Climate Reality Project Long Island chapter and of Reimagine LIPA. I’m also a Long Island Power Authority ratepayer. I am here to say that I support the work of this Commission. We must end the fundamentally flawed model of our utility and transition to a fully public model.

I care about this issue because I want more of the revenue from ratepayers to go to greening the grid on LI and improving resiliency so we can mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis on our vulnerable communities. Currently, only 3% of power on LI is generated by renewable energy, while 82% is from fossil fuels. By 2030, the mix of renewable energy in power generation is supposed to increase to 58%. We can and must do better than that, but even achieving 58% will take accountability to the public and commitment of revenues to clean renewable energy goals. This will be best done by investing revenue in clean renewable energy, not private company management fees and affiliate expenses. Making LIPA a truly public utility would save $100 million annually, according to LIPA itself. It would lead to savings of nearly $1 billion over the next decade by opting for operating and maintaining the grid itself. So instead of providing bonuses to unaccountable management and dividends to distant stockholders LIPA would be able to:

Reinvest revenues to enhance resiliency, like burying lines to reduce future outages; invest in incentives for battery storage for customers and municipalities, which would enhance grid performance and reliability; Mitigate climate impacts and improve energy security by supporting community solar, thermal energy networks, and more wide ranging conservation programs; encourage more renewables generation by allowing Community Choice Aggregation or CCAs; and improve the smart grid for energy savings and resiliency.

Publicly-owned utilities and co-ops nationwide fare as well or better than private sector utilities in the measures customers care about most: customer satisfaction and reliability. They also tend to be leaders in clean energy. LIPA needs to join their ranks to better serve ratepayers and all Long Island’s communities in the face of the climate crisis.