Good Morning, my name is Peter Schlussler, I am a former member of the Suffolk County Legislature LIPA Oversight committee. I also have over 19 years working for the former Long Island Lighting company with an additional 22 years in the government.

What does Hurricane Gloria in 1985, Super Storm Sandy in 2012 and Hurricane Isaias in 2020 have in common?

Executive leadership failings that were responsible for poor restoration decisions which resulted in extended outages for the ratepayer.

In all cases this same leadership was beholden to shareholders with dividends being paid regardless of these failings.

The PSEG dividend payout to its shareholders has risen 16% since 2020, Over one billion will be paid out this year alone. Its CEO was paid $62 Million in a five-year period ending in 2021.

What does all mean? The private and private/public model, as what is in place today, has not and does not work. And this comes at a very steep cost to the ratepayer.

Per the LIPA Oversight Committee’s recommendations over 10 years ago a Full Service Municipal Utility was the only answer in 2012 and certainly is more so today. This municipality would be accountable directly to the ratepayer and not shareholders.

There are more than enough similar Utilities that operate quite effectively and efficiently throughout the united states that demonstrates this.

This municipality must have “qualified”..…and I emphasize qualified… board of trustees that represent every square mile of the ratepayer territory with equal non-political representation.

This simply means we cannot allow Albany to pick and choose the “favor” of the day of who will be appointed to the board. A good Board can only be achieved by the ratepayers electing the same.

I do recognize the criticality of the highly skilled labor force and its importance that all union members are treated fairly by respecting what was earned with their contracts staying intact.

However, it must be noted that there are adequate protections under the Civil Service law- Taylor Law provision, which offers the same protections as with the existing National Labor Relations Act, except having the right to strike which the Taylor Law does not allow.

It also should be noted that workers for the New York Power Authority fall under Taylor Law and matter fact, NYPA was recognized by Forbes as being featured as a top Employer for 2018-2022. There are NYPA employees in our backyard at the Holtsville and Brentwood facilities that certainly could speak to that fact.

Time is running out and I fear this is the last opportunity for decades to come for the ratepayer to finally have what they deserve, reliable reasonably priced electricity with accountability.