



Building and Construction Trades Council of Nassau and Suffolk Counties

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LIPA Hearing on Municipalization, Rockaway YMCA, Arvene September 18, 2023

Once again, thank you Chairman Thiele, Thomas, as well as members of the commission for granting me the opportunity to speak at today's hearing on the draft report.

I am Matthew Aracich, a proud President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Nassau and Suffolk Counties who represents 65,000 skilled Tradeswomen and Tradesmen throughout Long Island.

Every Long Islander needs to pay attention to what's happening here today.

As representative of the Building Trades Council, I rise to express our strong opposition to course that is charted towards LIPA municipalization.

PSEG-LI has consistently delivered reliable services, offered quick responses, and employed experienced workers who know how to efficiently power our homes.

There are more than 2,500 of my brothers and sisters in Labor who work extremely hard to ensure there is no disruption to homeowners.

My family, like many others, depends on reliable and affordable utilities.

With the current economic challenges, including rising costs and inflation, we simply cannot afford the risk of municipalization leading to increased energy costs. Long Islanders don't need another learning curve like Shoreham that was great in theory but was an act of poor planning.

The current public-private partnership allows us to benefit from private sector innovation, meaning investment in new technology and top-quality service. There's no reason for the government to provide the same level of investment in these services. As a matter of fact, there's certainly no valid reason to change the model that exists now.

Let me put forth this simple analogy: When a reliable, comfortable car develops engine trouble, do we replace the car?

No,we repair or replace the engine because that's the prudent and most cost-effective alternative.

There are concerns about the efficiency of government-operated utilities.

Government-initiated changes often come with high costs and

complications, and if the service deteriorates, the burden falls on the taxpayers. May I suggest that we look at restructuring the agreements that will make the partnership better instead of changing the model all together for something we cannot quantify, we are simply guessing.

History has shown that promises of cheaper services from the government can often result in higher costs and lower quality in the long run. I am concerned that we don't know what we're signing up for if municipalization occurs, it could mean a higher bill at the end of the month.

All forms of Government are routinely known for being inefficient. When the Government makes changes, it often costs too much and gets way too complicated. If things go wrong and service goes down, then the homeowner, renter, and businesses end up paying for it.

Our family's needs include reliable, affordable utilities. We're already dealing with rising costs and staggering inflation; we cannot afford the risk of municipalization and rising energy costs.

Thank you for your time here today,

Matthew Aracich,

President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Aracich", written in a cursive style.