



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE MIKE D'AGOSTINO**  
91<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**CHAIR**  
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

September 3, 2020

Chairman Marissa Paslick Gillett  
Vice Chairman John W. "Jack" Betkoski III  
Commissioner Michael Caron  
Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)  
Ten Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Chairman Gillett, Vice Chairman Betkowski, and Commissioner Caron:

**Re: Docket Number: 20-01-02 In Opposition to United Illuminating's Proposed Rate Increase**

Please accept this testimony in opposition to the proposed rate increase submitted by United Illuminating. This is similar to the Eversource rate increase that was recently suspended by the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) back on June 26, 2020.

PURA has already denied United Illuminating's original proposed July 1, 2020 rate increase with their decision on July 29th to refer it for this hearing and I strongly urge PURA to uphold that denial when deciding on this rate increase hearing. Approving Eversource's original rate increase during a COVID-19 pandemic to allow for rates to increase so dramatically in combination with other factors including a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) decision is unacceptable and should have never been approved in the first place. Since, then I know PURA has held a hearing on that matter where the testimony from elected officials and the public was overwhelmingly against. The same applies for this United Illuminating rate increase request.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, for months my office has seen firsthand countless residents struggle with unemployment, loss of income, health emergencies and difficulty when it comes to affording their rent, mortgage payments, health insurance premiums and utility bills. We have also seen dramatic hits to our business community who have experienced closures, loss of income and have had to lay employees off. Our public health emergency combined requiring residents to be home more often combined with the extreme heat, which saw record number of days above 90 degree days, has likely increased energy consumption forecast for this year. Because energy bills are linked to customer usage, I believe it is extremely important that PURA analyze this proposed rate increase very carefully to make sure the utility will not over recover.

Rejecting this rate increase, would also allow regulators and the legislature the necessary time to conduct a thorough review of the request and to explore alternative cost recovery options that are more appropriate without putting so much burden on struggling Connecticut ratepayers, who already pay the highest energy rates in the nation. Allowing for this review in combination with looking closely at recent storm response and an analysis of our current power infrastructure and how we provide electricity really requires the time to address significant reforms that are needed.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony on behalf of our Connecticut homeowners and businesses in opposition to this proposed rate increase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D'Agostino". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

Representative Michael D'Agostino  
91st House District