



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Marissa P. Gillett, Chairman
John W. Betkoski III, Vice Chairman
Michael A. Caron, Commissioner

Energy and Technology Committee

Public Hearing, March 5, 2020

Testimony submitted and presented by:
PURA Position:

Marissa P. Gillett, Chairman
Support

Raised S.B. 10 – An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations Regarding Climate Change

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations Regarding Climate Change S.B. 10**. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following *supportive testimony*.

Importance of S.B. 10

This legislation builds on Connecticut's ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets by establishing a zero percent electric sector emissions target by 2040. Electric sector emissions comprised nearly a quarter of the State's total GHG emissions in 2016, representing a critical component in achieving economy-wide decarbonization. S.B. 10 also emphasizes the role of demand response measures in contributing to GHG reductions. Cost-effective demand response measures can help reduce peak demand and associated electric generation emissions, and minimize costs ultimately borne by ratepayers. This is particularly true for the procurement, at scale, of these resources in addition to the current Conservation and Load Management programs.

Connecticut is a demonstrated leader in setting aggressive decarbonization goals. Efforts to identify and implement GHG mitigation measures to meet the State's existing goals are well underway. PURA is working with other members of the Governor's Council on Climate Change to carry out the Governor's directives outlined in Executive Order No. 3. In addition, PURA will be guided by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's forthcoming Integrated Resources Plan, which analyzes pathways to cost effectively meet the State's energy and capacity needs in a manner consistent with achieving GHG reduction targets.

PURA stands ready to implement the measures necessary to achieve Connecticut's decarbonization goals, with a particular focus on maximizing the value delivered to all ratepayers and classes of customers.

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Framework for an Equitable Modern Grid

Last fall, PURA initiated a series of proceedings to investigate methods of equitably modernizing Connecticut's electric grid. PURA's Framework for an Equitable Modern Grid is designed to foster innovative solutions to address the key challenges and opportunities facing Connecticut's electric sector. The Framework has four objectives: (1) support (or remove barriers to) the growth of Connecticut's green economy; (2) enable a cost-effective, economy-wide transition to a decarbonized future; (3) enhance customer access to a more resilient, reliable, and secure commodity; and (4) advance the ongoing energy affordability dialogue in the State, particularly in underserved communities. All four objectives are inextricably connected and, thus, no one objective can be accomplished without the others if an Equitable Modern Grid is to be achieved. These objectives directly align with the intent of S.B. 10.

The General Assembly has considered an impressive suite of varied energy policies in recent years; however, not all of these initiatives are adequately or comprehensively reflected in PURA's historic approach to regulation. Thus, PURA's Framework for an Equitable Modern Grid will endeavor to maximize the benefits associated with energy policies duly adopted by State policymakers by addressing any lingering barriers to their cost-effective proliferation through a comprehensive, overarching planning process.

One of PURA's ongoing proceedings, focused on Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEVs), will ensure that the electric sector is positioned to facilitate the deployment of ZEVs as a pathway to decarbonization. PURA's ZEV proceeding will also look to enable Connecticut's stated commitment to the development of a self-sustaining ZEV market, ensuring that increased ZEV deployment is a ratepayer and system-wide *benefit* – rather than an impairment – to the safe, reliable and cost-effective operation of the state's electric grid.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Taren O'Connor at 860-827-2689 or taren.oconnor@ct.gov.

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