



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

REPRESENTATIVE MARY G. FRITZ
NINETIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4013
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (203) 269-1169
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8571
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0206
E-MAIL: Mary.Fritz@cga.ct.gov

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER

MEMBER
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony by:
Rep. Mary Fritz – 90th District

**HB 5019: An Act Prohibiting Expenditures Resulting from Storm
Maintenance, Improvement or Repair from Being Factored
Into Electric or Gas Utility Rates**

February 24, 2015

Chairman Doyle, Chairman Reed, Honorable members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

For the record, I am State Representative Mary Fritz of the 90th District, representing parts of the towns of Cheshire and Wallingford.

I appear before you today in support of House Bill 5019 regarding costs being put into the rate base and driving the costs through the roof for most citizens of the state.

The people of Cheshire and many other communities would be helped by this proposal. Wallingford would not because we have our own electric company and previously Wallingford was a member of CMEEC (there are 5 communities which are part of CMEEC).

Basically what this proposal requires is that any kind of repairs necessary because of storm damage, the costs of these repairs cannot be included in the rate base. The reason – good maintenance, clearing lines, regular tree trimming as part of regular maintenance will prevent power outages and serious damage to the lines. This is how over the years Wallingford has never had power outages.

I recognize that some towns, especially shoreline towns, are more susceptible to storm damage. However, towns that are members of CMEEC like Norwich, which is a shoreline community does not experience outages like other similar communities.

The secret is regular maintenance. Making sure that the costs of poor maintenance before a storm cannot be pushed on the rate payer in a rate increase after the storm.

I have included a chart from the Office of Fiscal Analysis which demonstrates the costs – in millions of dollars – for routine maintenance and storm clean up.

Looking forward to your support and help for the rate-payers, I would be happy to engage in a discussion on this subject.

Thank you.

Subject: FW: Storm Maintenance Request
From: Rep. Fritz, Mary (Mary.Fritz@cga.ct.gov)
To: wfritz@snet.net;
Date: Friday, February 6, 2015 12:17 PM

From: Craven, William
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 12:16 PM
To: Rep. Fritz, Mary
Cc: Perillo, Christopher
Subject: Storm Maintenance Request

Representative Fritz,

You requested various information about utility maintenance during normal conditions and storm maintenance.

What is the base maintenance level for normal conditions?

Each electric utility files a "Line Maintenance Plan" with PURA each year in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 16-32g. Below is maintenance expense information for CL&P for the last 10 years.

CL&P Maintenance Costs

(\$ in Millions)

Year	Routine Maintenance	Storm
2006	48.9	-
2007	-	-
2008	50.9	14.4
2009	65.2	8.6
2010	62.2	30.2

2011	60.0	278.3
2012	44.6	200.0
2013	65.7	33
2014	80.4	0 (YTD)
2015	76.6	-

Note:

1. Not all information requested is readily available.
2. The stated Maintenance Costs are the budgeted amount for the year, whereas the Storm Costs are the actual amount expended.
3. Prior to 2008, the companies were only required to provide this information in even years.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me by phone or email. I am also able to go over this in person if you wish.

Bill Craven

OFA Analyst

(860) 240-0257