



At Eastern Connecticut
State University

**Testimony of Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University
Before the Energy and Technology Committee**

**In Support of SB570, An Act Concerning Electric Savings And Fixed Bill Fees,
and related bills capping the fixed charge for customers of electric distribution companies**

Submitted by

Lynn Stoddard, Director, Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University
February 24, 2015

Senator Paul Doyle, Representative Lonnie Reed, and distinguished members of the committee:

I am writing to **support** passage of legislation that would lower and cap the fixed charge for electric service for residential customers and small business customers. Connecticut's residential customers now pay the highest (\$19.25/month; Eversource) and second highest (\$17.25/month; UI) monthly fixed charge for any major electric utility in the region. Eversource's Connecticut small business customers have seen fixed charges jump nearly 80% since 2007 (increasing from about \$25/month to \$44.50/month).

Electric rate design should support Connecticut's commitment to energy efficiency and clean energy. The fixed charge is not controllable by electricity customers and higher fixed charges act as a disincentive for energy efficiency and solar because a larger proportion of a customer's bill is beyond their control. Lower fixed charges encourage customers to invest in energy efficiency because this investment has a greater impact on lowering their electricity costs. A suggested reasonable cap would be \$10/month for residential customers and \$25/month for small business customers, with allowable adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index.

The Institute for Sustainable Energy promotes energy efficiency and sustainability in Connecticut through education, research, and technical support. We work with state agencies, municipalities, colleges, universities, K-12 schools, and others to implement practical solutions that increase energy efficiency, sustainability, and resilience. We look forward to continued work to support Connecticut's energy efficiency and clean energy programs and goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Stoddard

Director, Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University

83 Windham Street

Willimantic, CT 06226

860-465-2813 stoddardl@easternct.edu