

Testimony of Judith Allen  
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  
Judith Allen  
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 at \$10 per month, and for small business customers at \$25 per month. 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).

Higher fixed charges work against the state's commitment to energy efficiency and solar programs, slow the growth of a green jobs economy, and punish those who can least afford to pay.

I have taken advantage of several CT energy conservation programs. I have had a home energy audit, I have invested in energy saving appliances, added more insulation, and I have installed solar panels, all in a commitment to use less electricity and control costs. High fixed charges devalue the efforts I have made to control costs and use more renewable energy. I am on a fixed, low income and I use less electricity. High fixed charges are unfair for those of us working to create a renewable energy future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
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