

From: Debbie New <debbienew2@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 9:00 AM

To: PUC - Clerk <PUC.Clerk@vermont.gov>

Subject: Letter re: Case No. 25-0443-INV

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Dear Ms. Anderson,

Attached please find my letter re: Case No. 25-0443-INV.

Please acknowledge receipt when you have a moment.

Thank you,

Debbie

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September 1, 2025

Ms. Holly Anderson, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission

Re: Case No. 25-0443-INV --Response to Commission Requests July 31, 2025; Answers to the Commission's Questions at the Workshop

Dear Ms. Anderson:

I'm writing in support of the August 28 letter from James A. Dumont, Esq. responding to the Commission requests and questions. I've been following his work and the research of Ben Behimer on electric ratepayer protection in Vermont. I also attended the July 16th PUC workshop.

While I am writing to you as a Vermont resident, I also spend all of my professional time advancing Thermal Energy Networks for Vermont as a way to lower overall energy costs, making both thermal energy *and* electricity more affordable for more Vermonters.

There are many solutions we can employ to achieve our energy, affordability, climate, and equity goals. One key solution is a statewide electric ratepayer protection program to incentivize the transition off of fossil fuels to lower carbon electricity. Mr. Dumont's and Mr. Behimer's research shows how far behind we are in providing for low-income Vermonters compared with nearby states and how often many of our neighbors are faced with disconnection, creating impossible choices.

I appreciate the work the Commission is doing to study the situation of low-income electric ratepayers in Vermont. I hope there will be a second workshop to allow people impacted by electricity costs and disconnections to share their experiences. I also welcome more discussion between the Commission, Vermont's utilities, and the public regarding the most equitable, effective program we can propose to the Legislature.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Debbie New