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September 15, 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 am a member of Vermont interfaith Power and Light, an interfaith group advocating for a sustainable future for all people and all creatures. We particularly advocate for clean energy access for all Vermonters of all income levels.

I'm writing to request that the Commission hold a second workshop series on electric ratepayer protection to allow people impacted by high electricity costs and disconnections to share their experiences. You need to hear from the people, not just lobbyists.

As stated in Act 142, Section 21a: "In conducting the study required by this section, the Commission shall seek input from interested stakeholders, including [...] residential customers, low income program representatives, consumer-assistance program representatives, statewide environmental organizations, environmental justice entities, at least one low-income cost reduction program participant, at least one moderate income cost reduction program participant, and any other stakeholders identified by the Commission."

Ensuring that the Commission hears from low-income ratepayers in particular matters to me because my church administers a crisis fund that provides monetary assistance to low income folks who can't pay their utility bills and we are finding that demand is accelerating.

Ways to ensure that the voices of low-income ratepayers are heard could include holding meetings at times they can attend, providing refreshments, child care and even stipends to cover transportation to the meetings. You could also work with organizations that deal with low income folks such as the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO), Joint Urban Ministries Project (JUMP), the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) and similar organizations.

It would also be useful to set up listening stations at food banks on distribution days and record conversations with people when they arrive to pick up donations.

I realize this letter is after the response deadline and apologize, but hope you can accept it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Butz