



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CONNECTICUT

WILLIAM TONG
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 16, 2020

Via Email

David Meisinger, CEO
CMEEC
30 Stott Avenue
Norwich, CT 06360-1526

Re: *Immediate Utility Shut-off Moratorium*

Dear Mr. Meisinger:

I write to request that member utilities of the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative¹ (“CMEEC”) implement an immediate utility shut-off moratorium for nonpayment for residential electric customers. On March 10, 2020, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont issued a Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergencies (“Declaration”) in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with the novel coronavirus currently affecting multiple countries and states, including Connecticut and surrounding states. The Declaration provides that the public health and civil preparedness emergencies shall remain in effect until September 9, 2020, unless terminated earlier by the Governor.

Electricity is an essential public service. There are many Connecticut families heeding public health and safety warnings by staying at home in quarantine due to COVID-19 infection, potential exposure to COVID-19, or flu-like symptoms. In order to maintain Connecticut’s public health and safety, such families must be able to comfortably stay at home under safe conditions which includes electricity. Many families are staying at home due to work and school closures in response to the pandemic virus. It would be impossible for home schooling to proceed in households with no electricity, which raises educational equity issues as students from low-income or otherwise vulnerable families would not have the same at-home learning opportunities without electricity for internet services.

On March 12, 2020, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (“PURA”) granted my petition for a State of Emergency Utility Shut-off Moratorium for water, electric, and natural gas customers. PURA issued a preliminary order to water, electric, and natural gas public service companies to cease

¹ These are Bozrah Light and Power, Groton Utilities, Jewett City Department of Public Utilities, Norwalk SNEW, Norwalk Third Taxing District and the Norwich Public Utilities.

165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

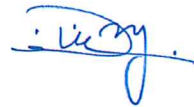
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

water, electric, and natural gas shut-offs, except for reasons of public safety, for the duration of the Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergencies declared by Governor Lamont, or until such other time determined by PURA.

In order to preserve the public health and safety of Connecticut residents during this pandemic, I respectfully request that the member utilities of CMEEC follow the same path as the regulated utilities by immediately implementing a water utility shut-off moratorium for the duration of Governor Lamont's state of emergency or until there is good cause to lift the moratorium. I further request you reinstate service for any customer within your service territory that has been recently terminated for nonpayment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (860) 808-5272 to further discuss this request. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter of public health and safety.

Very truly yours,



William Tong

Cc: Marissa Gillett, Chairman, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, Marissa.Gillett@ct.gov
David Silverstone, MDC Independent Consumer Advocate, icamdc17@gmail.com