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March 10, 2025

The Honorable Mark C. Christie
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Chairman Christie,

I urge FERC's denial of ISO-New England's request to collect tariffs on Canadian electricity imports and pass onto market participants (and ultimately to ratepayers) the costs of collecting such taxes. ISO-New England should not be responsible for collecting these unnecessary and unwise taxes on energy imports from Canada that will drive up costs for Connecticut ratepayers.

Connecticut consumers already face some of the highest electricity rates in the nation, with an average cost of 28.16 cents per kilowatt-hour compared to the national average of 16.26 cents per kilowatt-hour as of December 2024.¹ A significant share of Connecticut's electricity is sourced from Eastern Canadian hydropower. The proposed ten percent tariff on energy resources from Canada will directly impact these electricity costs. According to an estimate from ISO-New England, this tax would add \$66 million in annual customer costs.² Simply put, these taxes on Canadian energy imports will have devastating impacts on the cost of living for individuals in Connecticut.

ISO-New England is a market administrator, responsible for ensuring reliable and competitively priced electricity for the New England region. It is not a tax collector.³ Placing this extraneous burden of tariff collection on ISO-New England – the revenue from which does not inure to the benefit of the electricity system or ratepayers – is irresponsible, reckless and reprehensible. It would undoubtedly drive up costs for Connecticut consumers.⁴ As the federal entity responsible for ensuring consumers can access reliable energy at affordable rates, FERC

¹ "Electric Power Monthly," U.S. Energy Information Administration, last modified December 31, 2024, https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_a.

² ISO-New England Inc., Exigent Circumstances Filing of Revisions to Transmission, Markets and Services Tariff to Permit Recovery of Import Duties, Docket No. ER25, page 2; https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/100020/exigent_circumstances_filing.pdf.

³ ISO-New England Inc., Exigent Circumstances Filing.

⁴ Ibid.

should not impose this tax-collecting authority onto ISO-New England and therefore make it harder for consumers to pay their electric bills.

I strongly urge you to deny ISO-New England's request to collect tariffs and to consider the full effects of your decision on Connecticut consumers.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

CC:

The Honorable Willie Phillips, Commissioner
The Honorable David Rosner, Commissioner
The Honorable Lindsay See, Commissioner
The Honorable Judy Chang, Commissioner