



# **CT Roundtable on Climate & Jobs**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PURA Decision to Cut Fixed Charge is a Victory for Consumers, Workers and Clean Energy**

**John Humphries, organizer for the CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs, responded to PURA's decision to cut UI's residential monthly fixed charge from \$17.25 to \$9.64:**

"The CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs commends PURA's commissioners for protecting the public interest and lowering the monthly fixed charge for United Illuminating's residential customers by nearly 45%.

"This decision is a quadruple-win. It gives consumers greater control over their energy costs since more of their bill is directly tied to the amount of electricity they use. It relieves an undue burden on low-income residents, most of whom use less energy than the average customer and will therefore see a reduction in their monthly bill. It enhances the incentives for energy efficiency and rooftop solar, which are critical elements of the state's plan for achieving its climate goals. And it supports the expansion of a clean energy sector that provides green jobs for workers right here in Connecticut.

"We thank CT's lawmakers who said 'enough is enough' and passed the legislation in 2015 that laid the groundwork for this decision, and we thank the Office of Consumer Counsel for its determined advocacy. We look forward to working with the Acadia Center and our other coalition partners among Connecticut's labor, religious, environmental and business communities in advocating for further policy changes that will move us toward a clean energy economy that protects the climate while creating local jobs."

***[www.CTClimateandJobs.org](http://www.CTClimateandJobs.org)***

Two years ago, the CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs joined the Acadia Center in organizing a coalition of more than 30 groups to advocate for legislation halting runaway increases in the monthly fixed charges for Connecticut's residential electric customers by capping such charges at \$10 per month. Connecticut's ratepayers face much higher fixed charges than customers of any other major utility in the region. State legislators recognized the need for change, and they passed a law in June 2015 clearly limiting what costs can be included in the fixed charge.

United Illuminating's rate case was the first test of the new law.

In September, the Roundtable gathered endorsements from more than 30 organizations ([bit.ly/UI-letter9-16](http://bit.ly/UI-letter9-16)) and 150 individuals — from more than 50 Connecticut towns ([bit.ly/RTstatement9-16prn](http://bit.ly/RTstatement9-16prn)) — in calling upon the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to enforce the new law when considering the increased rates and charges proposed by United Illuminating. We supported expert testimony from the Office of Consumer Counsel concluding that UI's fixed charge should be reduced by more than half. We encouraged PURA to "conduct a rigorous review of United Illuminating's cost claims, calculations, and methodology to ensure that all costs outside the scope of state law have been removed from the residential fixed charge."

*Launched in June 2012, the **Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs** ([www.CTClimateandJobs.org](http://www.CTClimateandJobs.org)) seeks to strengthen collaboration among Connecticut's labor, environmental, and religious groups in advocating for public policies that address urgent concerns about climate change while creating good-paying jobs right here in our state.*

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