

**From:** MICHAEL RIDGE  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2024 2:44 PM  
**To:** PUC: Clerks Office <clerksoffice@puc.nh.gov>  
**Subject:** DE24-070

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I am also writing to ask the PUC not to approve the increase of 16.57% distribution charge Eversource has requested in 24-070. I echo the concerns previously expressed by other consumers with respect to exhausting conservation efforts only to continue to see increased bills. Consumer wage growth has also not increased anywhere near these rates.

Eversource may indeed have seen some increases in certain cost of materials, but a quick perusal of their press release of February 13, 2024, reporting their full year results for fiscal year 2023 vs 2022, shows respectable operating profits for electric transmission and distribution despite these cost increases. Eversource seems to be under shareholder pressure for their offshore wind investments, and perhaps accounting issues related to natural gas distribution. A reasonable person might conclude that Eversource is trying to squeeze even higher margins from their profitable operations to offset their mismanagement in other areas. Consumers cannot always pay the price for mistakes. In fact, Eversource can rectify their own losses by selling off their water distribution business, which they have already publicly announced they are considering.

I have recently moved back to NH from RI after 20 years because I wanted a return to sound governmental oversight after experiencing the 'rubber stamp' graft of Rhode Island for too long. I hope the PUC will carefully consider the impact this proposed rate increase would have on consumers and businesses in NH.

Thank you.  
Michael Ridge  
Amherst