JAMES MOL FOR HOUSE DISTRICT 61

SUFFIELD • EAST GRANBY • WINDSOR LOCKS

POSITION | ENERGY AND AFFORDABILITY

Electricity Costs and Utility Accountability

The legislature writes the rules the utility regulator plays by. That is where the leverage is.

THE CHALLENGE

Connecticut ratepayers pay among the highest electric rates in the country, and for households on fixed incomes the bill has become genuinely hard. A state representative does not set rates. The legislature controls the framework the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority works within, and how well armed the ratepayer's side of the table is when a utility asks for more.

Rates came down on May 1, 2026: about 4.3 cents per kilowatt-hour for Eversource customers, roughly $30 a month, and 4.9 cents for United Illuminating. Some of that is structural. Long-term nuclear contracts saved ratepayers more than $250 million in 2025, and Public Act 25-173 moved hardship and vehicle-charging costs off the public benefits charge, worth about $145 million this year. Some of it is a credit that runs through the coming winter and then has to be earned again. The rates that remain are still among the nation's highest, and the underlying structure has not been fixed.

The Office of Consumer Counsel is the ratepayer's advocate in rate cases, and it is consistently outmatched by utility legal and expert resources. Renters and many homeowners have almost no options of their own: they cannot install solar, and the state's community solar capacity is oversubscribed, so the people with the least margin carry the highest effective cost.

Connecticut law also still permits a legislator to hold a paid position with a utility whose regulations he helps review. Our district's state senator is a corporate attorney for Eversource and sits on the committee that reviews its regulations. That is legal, and it should not be.

WHAT I WILL DO IN HARTFORD

- Strengthen and fully fund the Office of Consumer Counsel so ratepayers have real firepower in rate cases.
- Protect the Public Act 25-173 reforms that bar utilities from billing ratepayers for lobbying, fines and executive perks, and resist efforts to roll them back.
- Expand community solar capacity so renters and homeowners without suitable roofs can subscribe and receive bill credits.
- Require longer cost-recovery periods on large approved increases to reduce rate shock on households.
- Bar legislators from holding paid positions with the utilities they oversee.

James Mol invested in geothermal and solar at his own farm, which is now net-zero on energy. He also knows those options are out of reach for renters and most households, which is why the policy has to reach further than what individuals can do alone.

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