

2 LONG ISLAND POWER AUTHORITY

3 -----X

4 VIRTUAL ZOOM

5 REFORMING ELECTRIC SERVICE

6 PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

7 -----X

8 May 25, 2021

9 6:02 P.M.

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12 B e f o r e :

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14 JENNIFER HAYEN

15 Director of Communications,

16 LIPA

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4 FROM LIPA

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8 Tom Falcone

9 Chief Executive Officer..... 6

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11 Tom Locascio

12 Director of External Affairs 26

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2 MS. HAYEN: Good evening,
3 everyone. Thank you for joining us for
4 the first of two public comment
5 sessions LIPA's holding on the options
6 analysis for the management of our
7 assets.

8 My name is Jenn Hayen. I'm LIPA's
9 Director of Communications. I'm joined
10 by LIPA'S Chief Executive Officer, Tom
11 Falcone, along with LIPA's Director of
12 External Affairs, Tom Locascio.

13 We're hosting this session
14 virtually, to minimize the risk of
15 COVID-19 for the public and our
16 employees.

17 We will begin tonight's session
18 with a presentation from the Chief
19 Executive Officer, and then we will
20 hear from you.

21 This meeting is being
22 live-streamed on our website,
23 LIPower.org. All materials and
24 presentations referenced alongside a
25 recording of this session will be

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2 available on our website as well.

3 Turning now to LIPA's Chief
4 Executive Officer, Tom Falcone.

5 Tom?

6 MR. FALCONE: Thank you, Jenn.

7 And thank you everybody for
8 joining us and for your interest. So
9 the purpose of tonight's session is
10 really to get your input on something
11 called the "options analysis."

12 Jenn, if you go to the next page.
13 The options analysis stems from a
14 recommendation adopted by the LIPA
15 board and recommended by the Department
16 of Public Service back in November of
17 2020.

18 It looked at the investigation
19 that came out of Tropical Storm Isaias
20 and recommended that we reconsider our
21 management option, whether to continue
22 with PSEG, terminate their contract or
23 reform that contract.

24 The board adopted that
25 recommendation in November and LIPA's

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2 staff released the first of two reports
3 in December, a phase one report. And
4 then about a month ago in April,
5 released a phase two report.

6 The Board, when it released that
7 April report, it asked to hear from
8 you. And so that's what we're here to
9 do tonight.

10 But before we get to that, I
11 thought I'd give a brief overview of
12 what the options analysis was all
13 about. So as I said, it comes out of
14 or stems out of Tropical Storm Isaias
15 and that's why we're here.

16 Now, the thing about Tropical
17 Storm Isaias isn't that 650,000
18 customers lost power. We know that
19 we're an island and occasionally we're
20 going get hit by bad storms. And the
21 job is to prepare well through tree
22 trimming and storm hardening; but,
23 occasionally, customers lose power and
24 it may even take time to restore.

25 But it was the restoration process

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that was really subpar. Critical IT and phone systems that are supposed to be designed and dependable and tested, they all failed. And a million customer calls couldn't get through and 300,000 text messages couldn't get through, and our website failed and the mobile apps failed and the government portal failed and there was a signature fog of war with PSEG's restoration efforts and activities and that affected how quickly they restored, and it also affected the information that was provided to all of you.

Customers received estimated times of restoration that may have been a day or two and then got extended by as many as seven or eight days, which is a significant customer inconvenience.

We went and we looked at this, the Department of Public Service did an investigation and LIPA did a separate investigation. And we looked at the root causes of what caused these

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2 problems.

3 And the root cause was really
4 management failures at PSEG. PSEG
5 every problem that we experienced could
6 and should have been prevented by good
7 management.

8 Can we go to the next page, Jenn.

9 So there were two types of causes
10 that we looked at. The proximate cause
11 of those problems and then the
12 fundamental causes.

13 The proximate causes were things
14 like IT systems that were not
15 maintained or adequately stress-tested.
16 It was a lack of urgency at PSEG to
17 deal with an outage management system
18 that wasn't performing in June before
19 the storm hit, June and July.

20 It was the lack of adequate
21 business continuity plans, or at least
22 manual work around plans, despite
23 knowing the outage management system
24 wasn't working.

25 It was the lack of sharing

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2 information with LIPA before, during or
3 after the storm about these failing IT
4 systems. We only learned about them as
5 a result of our investigation.

6 Those are the proximate causes,
7 but you have to look at the fundamental
8 causes.

9 We paid PSEG Long Island
10 \$80 million a year for management and
11 management services and management.
12 These were management failures. All of
13 these could and should have been
14 prevented and those fundamental causes
15 we have to say, well, do we have the
16 right incentives and do we have the
17 right alignment between LIPA and its
18 customers and PSEG? And do we have the
19 necessary accountability and
20 transparency?

21 You know, the contract that was
22 entered into and began in 2014 from
23 management services was a good attempt,
24 but we're eight years in and now we
25 can.

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2 So the LIPA Board has adopted
3 several remedies but chief among them,
4 they've ordered 140 direct fixes to the
5 IT systems and operations.

6 But beyond that, they've also
7 looked at these fundamental management
8 issues and whether we could do better.

9 You have your say, though, on the
10 next page: Is it just IT, is it just
11 storm response? And, no, over eight
12 years we've invested record amounts of
13 money, over \$4.2 billion, with some
14 expectation that we were really going
15 to remove the utility from a place that
16 was subpar to really among the
17 excellent, the top-performing utilities
18 in the country.

19 And we can see looking at those
20 140 recommendations that the board has
21 adopted, that there are problems in a
22 long-term planning, risk management,
23 asset management, real estate, budgets
24 and other areas.

25 But we also look at customer

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satisfaction and currently LIPA and PSEG under this contract are ranked 143rd of 144 largest utilities, and that's not just what we expected when we entered into this contract and applied all of these resources.

So it's time for a course correction and to think about how things are going and anything we do has to provide the assurance that through best management of these substantial resources, very, very significant resources, that we're going to get better results in the future.

If we go to the next page.

So there are four options around the management of the Long Island electric grid that these reports examined.

The first is privatization. The second is to reset to expectations with PSEG and reform the contract. The third is to seek a new provider, and the fourth is to bring utility

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2 operations under LIPA management.

3 We'll talk about each one briefly
4 and you can read the options analysis
5 for the details.

6 Before we get into that, I want to
7 make one point in all of these things.
8 Here is the utility structure on this
9 page. We're only talking about the
10 orange box, the management box.

11 The eighteen executives at the
12 vice president and director level and
13 some shared services at PSEG. The LIPA
14 Board of Trustees, the executive staff,
15 the regulatory staff, the Department of
16 Public Service or NYSERDA.

17 And even the subsidiary staff that
18 work at something called the Servco
19 Subsidiary, the long-serving Long
20 Island dedicated employees that you
21 interact with when you call the call
22 center that show up and restore power
23 in an emergency. None of those things
24 change, those are permanent.

25 What we're talking about is that

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2 management layer of eighteen executives
3 and what's the best solution for the
4 future.

5 Go to the next page.

6 So first, option one:

7 Privatization: Simply, it costs too
8 much. Results in higher financing
9 costs and the loss of federal grants
10 which raise customer bills by an
11 average \$32 a month. There's a lot of
12 detail in the report, but for that
13 reason that it just costs too much, the
14 LIPA Board has said that we shouldn't
15 consider it any further and should
16 focus on options two, three and four.

17 Option two, so what does it mean
18 to reset the PSEG relationship and
19 reform the contract? Well, there are
20 things that are listed here, and a
21 reform contract needs to have better
22 alignment, incentives, accountability,
23 and strengthened oversight. I won't go
24 through a lot of the detail, but just
25 take a few examples.

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2 You know, the bucket labeled
3 "option." Well, we need more skin in
4 the game, more compensation that's at
5 risk. Under the current contract, 87
6 percent of the compensation is fixed.

7 Number two, expanded performance
8 metrics, how we evaluate PSEG's
9 performance. Many of the areas that I
10 highlighted a few pages ago, there's
11 not a single performance metric on
12 them. It would be like hiring an
13 employee and saying, well, whatever you
14 want to do in that area, it's okay with
15 us.

16 Number three, gating metrics and
17 default metrics. Why do we care about
18 these?

19 Well, when we get to really bad
20 performance, like a bad storm Isaias
21 where management really did not perform
22 well, there should be some substantial
23 penalties in the contract.

24 Number four, we need a strong
25 local management team. They need to

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2 have not only the accountability, but
3 also they need to have the right people
4 in right seats, dedicated on Long
5 Island every day.

6 Number five, we need candor from
7 our service provider. As mentioned, we
8 didn't get it before, during or after
9 the storm, we only got it throughout
10 our own investigation.

11 Number six, strengthening
12 oversight when we find a problem.
13 There needs to be penalties if they're
14 not rectified.

15 Number seven, we need to
16 strengthen oversight and long-term
17 planning, project prioritization,
18 budget development.

19 Why do we care about these things?
20 It adds a greater level of
21 accountability where LIPA and its
22 service provider would agree on the
23 outcomes that are necessary. And then
24 the service provider management would
25 be measured on delivering those

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2 outcomes.

3 And number eight, this storm had
4 particular problems in IT. We need to
5 partition the Long Island systems and
6 facilitate greater verification and
7 validation, independent reviews of
8 those systems to make sure they're
9 going to perform in a tough storm.

10 If we go to the next page.

11 Well, we have been talking with
12 PSEG about these core contract reforms
13 for a number of months, since January.
14 And the truth is that we just have not
15 achieved them.

16 But those reforms, they're not
17 pendulum shifts, they've not
18 overcorrections. The current contract
19 is a high-trust contract and we need to
20 rethink it, eight years in, and learn
21 from it.

22 I would just quote this 2013 DPS
23 management operations audit before this
24 contract started what they thought was
25 essential: Contractor control and

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performance cannot be fully relegated to metrics premiums or penalties. It requires continuous guidance, diligent oversight and meaningful intervention to ensure that the right things are done and customer expectations are met.

And that's what that package of reforms is intended to deliver.

If we go to the next page.

The issue has been despite all these many months of negotiations, we just have not been able to seek terms that are acceptable both to PSEG and to the LIPA Board of Trustees.

And so we don't have a package of reforms or a contract that we would put forth to the public for your comment and a consideration. So that's what we would need.

If -- we'll continue to speak with PSEG, but we would need a contract that we could put forth that would provide the board and the public with reasonable assurance that a second

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2 chance is warranted and that the future
3 would be better than what we
4 experienced.

5 If we go to the next page.

6 So option three, option three is
7 really about can we get somebody new.
8 And it's a pretty straightforward
9 option.

10 Selecting -- there's many, many
11 potential bidders that are out there,
12 and exploring new terms with someone
13 else involves starting a procurement
14 process which we've already started.
15 It need not be a single provider, it
16 could be open to a consortia or
17 multiple utilities or vendors.

18 And on May 19th, LIPA issued a
19 request for information from potential
20 utilities contractors and consortia.
21 That response is due July 19th.

22 And we're in the middle of a
23 marketing effort to see who is out
24 there and whether they would provide
25 better alignment between the board's

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2 vision for your customers of a high --
3 a clean utility with high customer
4 satisfaction, high reliability, and
5 affordable prices. Can we align with
6 our new provider better than we can
7 align with our current provider.

8 So we're currently in those
9 conversations. We're getting some very
10 interesting conversations. We expect a
11 good result out of the RFI and
12 something that we can bring to the
13 board and the public, at least for your
14 conversation.

15 So, finally, and that is the good
16 news, we're winding down. But there's
17 a fourth position. And that's to bring
18 LIPA operations under LIPA management.

19 And so we have a lot of details
20 covered in the report about this
21 option, and it's a little bit different
22 than the other options which all
23 involve a service provider, so we'll
24 spend a few more pages on it.

25 There are many potential benefits

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2 of it that are listed here.

3 On to next page of the page.

4 Let's dig a little bit deeper.

5 So is this a viable option? Well,
6 it's obviously a viable business model
7 because other people do it. What you
8 see here on the page is other -- how
9 other public power utilities,
10 publicly-owned utilities and
11 investor-owned utilities, performed.

12 It's not to say that every public
13 power utility is an excellent utility,
14 but public power utilities are
15 overrepresented among utilities with
16 high customer satisfaction and
17 reliability and underrepresented among
18 utilities with very poor customer
19 satisfaction and reliability.

20 And what that means is it's
21 possible to do quite well but not a
22 guarantee.

23 If we go to the next page.

24 What are the financial
25 implications of LIPA management, if

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2 LIPA were to take over management?

3 Well, it's financially feasible.

4 It would save about \$100 million a year
5 in existing management fees and
6 affiliate costs, and it would cost
7 about \$5 million here to replace those
8 services under LIPA management.

9 The savings through 2025 are
10 approximately 175 to 236,000,000 and
11 could be up to as much as \$920 million
12 through 2033, so it's a financially
13 viable choice.

14 If we go to the next page.

15 But we also have to a look at the
16 key risks. It's a signature change in
17 business model, and so we have to know
18 not just what the risks are but also
19 what are the essential ingredients to
20 make it work.

21 So a few things I'll cover.

22 Number one, management quality. The
23 management has to be up to the task and
24 it needs to be run by professionals
25 whose own career and compensation are

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2 linked to the outcomes.

3 We would have to hire about 12 new
4 senior executive positions. We have to
5 offer competitive market-based
6 salaries, because it's not really
7 realistic to think we can get people to
8 come to our utility for less than
9 they're making somewhere else.

10 Number two, we would need customer
11 and stakeholder support. Between 1998
12 and 2013, there was a LIPA-branded
13 utility on Long Island. It was run
14 under a public/private partnership with
15 National Grid. Customers may perceive
16 LIPA management is going back to the
17 future. And so that's a risk, and we
18 would need for this change in business
19 model to have the very strong and full
20 support of state's elected officials,
21 regulators, stakeholders, and most
22 importantly, our customers.

23 Next, the board. The LIPA Board
24 is currently appointed by the Governor
25 and members of our legislature. And

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2 they would really have to understand
3 the role, with the assistance of DPS in
4 holding management accountable.

5 Presently, there's also the LIPA
6 management that provides substantial
7 oversight of PSEG. In this case the
8 LIPA management would be running the
9 utility. And so the board, along with
10 DPS, would have to hold management
11 accountable for delivering what it had
12 promised.

13 Next, a private sector role. We
14 can't do it all ourselves. We need to
15 flexibly assemble best-in-class
16 expertise in selected areas from the
17 private sector, even if it's under LIPA
18 management.

19 And finally, there are transition
20 risks. There are business continuity
21 risks and costs. We have to hire a new
22 management team, those 12 new
23 positions, we have to shift 2,500
24 employees to that LIPA organization,
25 and we have to migrate certain IT

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2 systems.

3 So it would be incumbent on LIPA
4 management to put forth a transition
5 plan that really adequately mitigates
6 that risk and provides people assurance
7 that it's all really going to come
8 together and work.

9 If we go to the next page.

10 We have a lot of resources
11 available to you on this. A lot more
12 than what I'm talking about tonight,
13 and there's links and this presentation
14 is on the website, as well as all these
15 fact sheets and reports where you can
16 find out more information.

17 And with that, I'm now going to
18 turn to over to the portion where we
19 hear from you.

20 And with that, I'm going to turn
21 it back to Jenn Hayen.

22 MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Tom. Nice
23 presentation.

24 We will now begin the public
25 comment portion of the session.

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2 All speakers will have five
3 minutes. Written comments may also be
4 submitted electronically to the LIPA
5 website. All comments submitted will
6 be posted and are available for public
7 review.

8 If you are signed on to the Zoom
9 application, please raise your hand now
10 to speak. If you are dialed in by
11 phone, please press "star" now to raise
12 your hand, and when you're brought into
13 the webinar, please press "star 6" to
14 unmute yourself.

15 Before you speak, please state
16 your name and affiliation.

17 The first speaker I see tonight
18 will be Ryan Madden, followed by Billi
19 Roberti, Nicolas Shearman, Jennifer
20 Brown, and followed by Gail Payne.

21 MR. LOCASCIO: I'm going to
22 promote Ryan into the meeting right
23 now.

24 MS. HAYEN: Okay, thank you.

25 Ryan, you will have five minutes.

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2 MR. MADDEN: Thank you. My name
3 is Ryan Madden. I'm the sustainability
4 organizer with the Long Island
5 Progressive Coalition. We are a
6 grassroots organization, founded in
7 1979, and a leading member of New York
8 Renews, the coalition responsible for
9 passing the Climate Leadership and
10 Community Protection act in 2019.

11 In November of 2020, LIPC, the
12 Suffolk and Nassau County chapters of
13 DSA and the Food & Water Watch came
14 together to try and urge the Long
15 Island Power Authority to terminate its
16 contract with PSEG Long Island,
17 municipalized and democratized in the
18 aftermath of Tropical Storm Isaias.

19 Over the past several months, we
20 have built a network of supporters
21 through the reimagined LIPA statement,
22 remobilized ratepayers to weigh in at
23 monthly LIPA board meetings, held
24 forums on the benefits of public power,
25 worked with elected officials to issue

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2 a letter to Governor Cuomo in support
3 of public power and published hotbeds
4 and letters to the editor in multiple
5 outlets.

6 The reimagined LIPA statement with
7 35 signatories includes environmental
8 organizations, grassroots groups, civil
9 rights organizations, reproductive
10 healthcare providers, statewide climate
11 justice coalitions, business
12 associations, indigenous groups, and
13 faith organizations.

14 It demonstrates the widespread
15 organized community support from moving
16 away from the failed public/private
17 partnership model.

18 The letter to the governor, signed
19 by fifteen Long Island and Rockaway
20 lawmakers demonstrates the widespread
21 organized political support for moving
22 away from the failed public/private
23 partnership model.

24 In the updated options analysis
25 resealed by LIPA staff itself confirms

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2 that the only credible and viable
3 choice is public power.

4 The LIPA board must terminate its
5 contract with PSEG, not soliciting free
6 from other private providers and,
7 instead, commit to new paradigm and
8 energy management.

9 This decision should be
10 immediately after the public hearings.
11 Further delay is further time, money,
12 and resources wasted on a utility model
13 that is structurally unreliable,
14 unaccountable, and more expensive.

15 It's time for the LIPA to act with
16 support from relevant actors cross New
17 York State.

18 We also need a democratic LIPA
19 that is accountable to your region.
20 The push for municipalization must
21 ensure the following: Formalized
22 partnership with a Long Island
23 University-based energy observatory to
24 contract with LIPA to conduct community
25 engagement and research in order to

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2 offer recommendations to the board on
3 clean energy, ratepayer protection,
4 (indecipherable) issues, and climate
5 justice, which the board has to
6 consider and respond to.

7 An accountable and representative
8 board that includes, at least in part,
9 the direct election of members from
10 rate payers within equally apportioned
11 districts. Proper oversight by the
12 public service commission, and the
13 modification of the mission of LIPA to
14 include climate justice, energy
15 democracy and equity.

16 LIPA has estimated that it can
17 save nearly one billion dollars over
18 the next decade by opting for
19 municipalization instead of bonuses to
20 unaccountable management and dividends
21 to distance stockholders. LIPA could
22 lower utility rates for low income
23 households, seniors, and small
24 businesses. Reinvest profits to
25 enhance resiliency and improve services

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2 to customers with public needs and seek
3 out public/private partnerships that
4 improve service delivery and community
5 resilience.

6 In place of intermittent
7 opportunities for public engagement and
8 no direct participation in the
9 operation of our utility, LIPA could be
10 direct partners and new democratic
11 models for energy managements.

12 The existing advisory board at
13 LIPA is inadequate and the utility has
14 struggled to engage across the towns,
15 cities, and villages of Long Island,
16 fostering disengagement and distrust.

17 These new democratic models could
18 include formalizing relationship with
19 the Long Island Energy Observatory, an
20 independent NGO whose mission is to
21 convene stakeholders, conduct research,
22 and promote sustained inclusive public
23 engagement.

24 It would provide comment on the
25 budget, infrastructure citing pilots

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2 and other important issues, and work
3 with the board on long-term planning
4 while supporting communities to make
5 informed proposals.

6 The executive director of the
7 observatory should be appointed to the
8 LIPA board.

9 Resource and cooperative ownership
10 models for community solar and
11 establishing participatory processes
12 for renewable energy planning, along
13 with other priorities detailed in the
14 Long Island solar roadmap.

15 Establishing energy improvement
16 districts with town, cities, and
17 villages that focus resources on
18 communities facing high energy burdens
19 and barriers to accessing renewables.

20 Setting up dedicated trusts to
21 direct public funding and bonding and
22 technical assistance to EIDs and
23 utilizing public spaces such as
24 schools, houses of worship, libraries,
25 and post offices to host both energy

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2 planning processes and sites of
3 renewable generation.

4 By making these decisions to save
5 money, invest in communities, and build
6 lasting partnerships on Long Island in
7 the process of municipalizing and
8 democratizing our utility, LIPA can
9 make significant strides in regaining
10 public trust for ratepayers, elected
11 officials, and regulatory bodies.

12 Community participation and
13 institutional partnerships can serve as
14 needed watchdogs and builders of trust
15 and can ensure a model of collective
16 governance for our energy system is
17 required for the 21st century.

18 We call on the LIPA board,
19 Governor Andrew Cuomo, and Long Island
20 state legislators to ensure this
21 happens. Thank you.

22 MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Ryan.

23 The next speaker is Nicolas
24 Shearman.

25 Nicolas, you're still on mute.

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2 You'll have five minutes.

3 MR. SHEARMAN: Okay, thank you.

4 Can you hear me now?

5 MS. HAYEN: We can hear you.

6 MR. SHEARMAN: Great. Thank you
7 for the opportunity to testify. My
8 name is Nicolas Shearman, a life-long
9 New Yorker, former resident of Suffolk
10 County and volunteer with
11 (indecipherable) energy project.

12 I lived on Long Island for 23
13 years, currently I live in New York
14 City, and my family members and friends
15 are current residents and Long Island
16 utility ratepayers.

17 The updated options analysis
18 released by the Long Island Power
19 Authority last month makes clear that
20 terminating the contract with PSEG and
21 moving to a fully municipal authority
22 must happen. The implementation of
23 option four must begin now.

24 Tropical Storm Isaias caused great
25 damage across Long Island. Several of

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my loved ones were left without power for days, causing them to lose food and put medicine in jeopardy. And many of my coworkers who were working remotely from their homes on Long Island because of the pandemic, lost several business days of productivity from the lost power and the inability to conduct to the internet.

After months of public discourse around PSEG's costly negligence and mismanagement in the aftermath of the tropical storm, it's clear they're incapable of responding to the challenge of maintaining the resilient electric grid that Long Islanders need and deserve.

Per LIPA's own findings, PSEG lied about its preparedness for the tropical storm, its immediate response to the storm, and the number of upgrades it made after the storm.

LIPA determined that management failures were the root cause, as

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2 described tonight, and that PSEG lacks
3 proactive risk management.

4 Time and time again, in public
5 meetings over the past few months, PSEG
6 has continued to obfuscate the truth
7 and avoid accountability. They have
8 demonstrated themselves to be
9 untrustworthy partners in managing our
10 energy system with transparency and
11 public oversight. PSEG can't fix the
12 problem because they are the problem.

13 I believe -- and I'm afraid this
14 will be the case with all other
15 for-profit vendors LIPA could hire to
16 manage our system -- the public/private
17 partnership model is unreliable,
18 unaccountable, and more expensive.

19 Years of these partnerships on
20 Long Island have removed us further
21 from the roots of our need and energy
22 system and service of the people, not
23 profits. The time has come to finally
24 move to full public power on Long
25 Island.

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2 And as described a bit in the
3 presentation, public power works in
4 many places, around 2000 public
5 utilities including ones that exist on
6 Long Island, serve almost fifteen
7 percent of Americans offering cheaper
8 rates and shorter outage times of
9 private utilities. They have track
10 records of being more responsive to
11 customer needs, fielding better
12 customer satisfaction. The shortage
13 outage time safeguard household's food
14 and medicine and improve the
15 productivity of small businesses.

16 PSEG promised LIPA it would be in
17 the top 25 percent of customer
18 satisfaction. As of right now it is
19 second to last nationwide. That's a
20 shame. Long Island deserves better.

21 I think -- also I think LIPA's
22 transition to full public power is
23 vital in implementing climate
24 mitigation strategies that will help
25 protect Long Island from climate

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2 change.

3 LIPA has estimated it can save
4 nearly one billion over the next decade
5 by opting for full municipalization.
6 As climate catastrophe looms, these
7 savings can be invested in providing
8 100 percent clean renewable energy on a
9 grid that can handle what is to come.

10 In echoing Ryan's comments, the
11 LIPA Board must terminate its contract
12 with PSEG, not soliciting from other
13 private providers and instead to commit
14 to a new paradigm of energy management
15 on Long Island.

16 As part of this new paradigm, it's
17 essential that LIPA is operated
18 democratically, is actively engaged
19 with, guided by, and accountable to the
20 people.

21 A push for municipalization on
22 Long Island must also ensure the
23 following: A formalized partnership
24 with a Long Island University-based
25 energy observatory to contract with

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LIPA to conduct community engagement and research in order to offer recommendations to LIPA's Board and clean energy ratepayer protections, worker issues, and climate justice, which the board is obligated to consider and respond to, an accountable representative board that includes, at least in part, the direct election of members from ratepayers within equally apportioned districts within LIPA's service area. Proper oversight by the PSC, along with other robust mechanisms for public accountability.

The modification of the mission of LIPA to include climate justice, energy democracy, participatory democracy, and equity to codify its commitment to a new paradigm of energy management on Long Island.

MS. HAYEN: Nicolas, thank you. Your time is your up.

MR. SHEARMAN: Thank you for your consideration. I'm finished. Thank

1 LIPA HEARING 5-25-2021

2 you.

3 MS. HAYEN: Thanks, Nick.

4 Our next speaker is Billi Roberti.

5 Followed by Jennifer Brown, Gail Payne,

6 Laura McKellar, and then

7 Paul Merkelsen.

8 Billi, you're on mute. You will

9 have five minutes.

10 MS. ROBERTI: Thank you. My name

11 is Billi Roberti, and my husband and I

12 are homeowners in Huntington Station.

13 Thank you for this opportunity to

14 speak.

15 I thought I only had three

16 minutes, so now I can talk a little

17 slower. First of all, I agree with

18 Ryan Madden and Nicolas Shearman's

19 statements. You have a wealth of

20 talent willing to help fulfill this

21 plan.

22 I am very involved in promoting

23 the transition to renewable energy. I

24 volunteer with Mothers Out Front, a

25 grassroots organization of mothers and

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2 others focused on shifting us off
3 fossil fuel and onto renewable energy
4 to protect children's health today and
5 ensure they have a liveable climate
6 tomorrow.

7 However, once we transition off
8 fossil fuels, we will be entirely
9 reliant on our electric utility. It
10 must be reliable, resilient, and
11 responsive to power outages.

12 I have lived through LIPA Keyspan,
13 LIPA National Grid, and LIPA PSEG, and
14 I can tell you, the public/private
15 model does not work. Three strikes and
16 you're out. The LIPA board seems to
17 have learned this lesson, but has the
18 governor?

19 I'm calling on Governor Cuomo,
20 whose father created LIPA to support
21 public power for Long Island. I
22 believe a redesigned LIPA can do it.

23 National Grid was fired after
24 Sandy, and then PSEG had an epic
25 failure during Isaias. If National

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2 Grid lost its franchise for its Sandy
3 response, surely PSEG should receive
4 the same, as Isaias was much less
5 severe and its response was much worse.

6 Our power was out for over three
7 days due to a tree falling on the power
8 line. We couldn't reach PSEG via text,
9 cell phone or online. Once we got
10 through, we were given hilarious
11 misinformation. But I delineated all
12 of that in my previous comment at the
13 hearing about the LIPA -- about the
14 PSEG response.

15 The crews were great, the outage
16 management system was abysmal. That
17 whole experience was maddening. The
18 worst part, again, was PSEG knew about
19 the problems months before the storm
20 and then lied about it, knowing about
21 it, and had proof they had responded
22 because they had responded to e-mails
23 to people who said there were problems.
24 Its management cannot be trusted.

25 PSEG has also failed to help us

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2 move aggressively towards
3 electrification. Its current utility
4 2.0 plan focuses on electric vehicles,
5 not on building electrification nor on
6 community outreach to prepare people
7 for this. It's easy to promote
8 electric vehicles, everyone is doing
9 it, it's harder when it's changing your
10 own home and your living space.

11 LIPA can do better as a municipal
12 utility. How we redesign it is
13 important. We need a customer-focused
14 utility that is accountable, reliable,
15 transparent, and equitable with more
16 public input and better leadership in
17 decarbonizing our buildings.

18 Long Island is also being left
19 behind since we are not eligible for
20 most of NYSERDA's programs. 99 percent
21 of them are funded by the PSEG-mandated
22 systems benefits charge, SBC.

23 LIPA is under the DPS and pays a
24 separate fee to fund utility 2.0
25 programs, not the same, separate and

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2 definitely not equal. LIPA customers
3 need to pay the SBC. We can change the
4 charter and make that happen. We need
5 NYSERDA's guidance to learn about and
6 navigate renewal energy issues.

7 One valuable NYSERDA program is a
8 clean heating and cooling program which
9 supports local community outreach and
10 education campaigns to explain the
11 benefits of energy efficiency and
12 renewable heating technologies in
13 partnership with contractors who can
14 provide these services.

15 When we begin to pay the SBC,
16 every Long Islander will benefit.
17 Thank you.

18 MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Billi.

19 The next speaker is Jennifer
20 Brown, again followed by Gail Payne,
21 Laura McKellar, Paul Merkelsen, and
22 then followed by Aaron Binder.

23 Jennifer, you're on mute. You
24 have five minutes. Welcome.

25 MS. BROWN: Hi, thank you for the

1 LIPA HEARING 5-25-2021

2 opportunity to speak. My name is
3 Jennifer Rogers Brown, I'm a professor
4 of Environmental Sociology at LIU Post
5 and a member of Mothers Out Front here
6 in Long Island, just as Billi is. My
7 family and I live in Huntington
8 Station.

9 I'm speaking in support of a
10 democratically owned LIPA. The board
11 should terminate its contract with PSEG
12 and move towards full public power.
13 This aligns with recognizing climate
14 change and building a sustainable Long
15 Island.

16 A public utility can better engage
17 the public, prioritize our diverse
18 needs and build a better democratic
19 process. As Billi said, it will give
20 us access to additional NYSERDA
21 programs. 99 percent of NYSERDA
22 programs are funded by the PSE mandated
23 systems benefits charge.

24 And the particular ones that I'm
25 interested in, two valuable programs

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P-12 schools, green clean energy solutions and P-12 schools initiative benchmarking program will help children's schools go green and learn about the process at the same time. As a parent, I would love to see this happen.

A move toward public power is in line with the priorities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs.

SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy claims we need a step-up renewable exactly which is affordable and reliable energy as critical for health facilities, something that the pandemic has taught us is essential.

And SBG11, sustainable cities and communities has target 11.3, a goal stating that by 2030, we will enhance inclusive sustainable urbanization and capacity to participatory planning, measured by the number of cities with a direct participation structure of civil

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2 society and urban planning and
3 management.

4 When we engage in participatory
5 democracy, we need to be deliberate in
6 including all people. A public utility
7 is a critical step to allowing this
8 process.

9 Climate scientists and social
10 scientists see public participation in
11 democracy as a key part of climate
12 resiliency. I support the idea of
13 partnering with a LI University energy
14 observatory to engage the community and
15 building an accountable and
16 representative board.

17 As a parent, as a -- as a scholar
18 who has worked on many of this public
19 participation research and somebody
20 concerned about our climate future, I
21 hope you can move towards this public
22 power option. Thank you.

23 MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Jennifer.

24 Gail, you are up next.

25 Gail, we can see you in the

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2 webinar. You're not on mute. If
3 you're dialed in by phone, you can
4 press "star 6" to unmute yourself.

5 (No response)

6 MS. HAYEN: Tom, I'm not hearing
7 Gail. Are you?

8 MR. LOCASCIO: No.

9 MS. HAYEN: Gail, we can come back
10 to you.

11 Laura McKellar, you will be our
12 next speaker. Followed by Paul
13 Merkelsen, Aaron Binder, and then
14 Charles Nieves.

15 Laura, you're on mute. Welcome.

16 MS. MCKELLAR: Hi.

17 MS. HAYEN: Five minutes. Thank
18 you.

19 MS. MCKELLAR: I'm Laura McKellar.
20 Thank you for giving me the opportunity
21 to speak. I'm affiliated with LIPC.
22 I'm also a nurse, I'm a mom, and I live
23 in Greenport and I'm a member of this
24 community.

25 As Tom pointed out at the

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2 beginning, it's a given fact that
3 coastal regions are going to get hit by
4 big storms, we all know this. We're
5 going to get hurricanes, we're going to
6 get nor'easters, we're going to get
7 tropical storms.

8 And many of us are prepared for a
9 storm, most of us are. We have
10 batteries, we have flashlights, we have
11 candles, we have boardgames for our
12 kids, maybe a generator. We know what
13 to do and who to call if there's damage
14 to the house. We know how we're going
15 to get in touch with family members, we
16 know who the elderly and vulnerable
17 neighbors are that we need to check on.
18 We have plans in place, and after Irene
19 and Sandy, many of us got better at
20 preparing for future storms. We
21 learned.

22 And I think many of us assumed
23 when PSEG came in, that they were going
24 to have a solid preparedness plan in
25 place. We saw people trimming trees

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2 better, we saw signs of preparedness,
3 and we thought, oh good, this entity,
4 this company, is going to be better
5 prepared for future storms than the
6 past entities had been. And we were
7 wrong. We were wrong.

8 Isaias was a natural disaster, but
9 it was followed by a much worse
10 logistical, structural, and corporate
11 disaster created by PSEG and then
12 covered up. We obviously need to end
13 the LIPA/PSEG relationship. But
14 extricating PSEG isn't going to solve
15 anything if we can continue to enter
16 into the same type of relationship
17 again, a public and private partnership
18 in which stockholders are the
19 stakeholders. We need to revamp the
20 entire structure of the relationship,
21 we need option four, we need public
22 power.

23 We, the communities, should be the
24 primary stakeholders here. We are the
25 ratepayers. We pay for the power, and

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2 if we don't like the service, we have
3 no place else to go unless we're going
4 to totally go off the grid. We are
5 stuck.

6 So it's the communities that face
7 the risks and threats of storms, and
8 it's communities that feel the effects
9 of LIPA's policies and procedures and
10 plans. The communities deserve a
11 representative seat at the table to
12 have a voice in the creation of these
13 policies, plans and procedures.

14 We want to have a -- some sort of
15 system of representation, so that
16 various towns and communities on Long
17 Island have a true seat at the table.
18 It enables us to hold LIPA accountable,
19 but it also means that we ourselves
20 have to be held accountable.

21 We don't want to be a distant
22 voice in the back of the room, and
23 maybe to have a nod or a smile or thank
24 you for your input. We want a real
25 seat at the table, alongside energy

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experts, engineers, climate change scientists, all people who are beholden to the values and ideals of the industry as a whole, of science, of justice, and of the communities of Long Island.

We do not want another corporation who is ultimately beholden to another group of stockholders, who might not have even ever heard of Wyandanch or Setauket.

And it's not just about Isaias and storm preparedness, we're also -- as everybody has pointed out so far, we're at a particularly important juncture in time in terms of the health of our planet and climate change.

And I'm not just talking about climate change as a driving force in increasing storms or frequency of these coastal storms or strength, I'm talking about climate change as a whole. We all know that if we want future generations to survive, to prevail, to

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2 prosper, we are going to have to make
3 long-needed changes in energy
4 production and consumption.

5 We're about to embark on a journey
6 of unprecedented change in how we
7 generate energy, how we deliver energy,
8 how we store it, and how we use it.

9 As more of our lives become
10 electrified, the demand on the grid
11 will only increase, making
12 infrastructure even more important than
13 before. And in order to ensure that
14 these changes result in a system that
15 is efficient, equitable, and safe for
16 all communities, we must ensure that
17 we, the ratepayers and the communities
18 of Long Island, have a meaningful voice
19 and are represented in the process.

20 Only option four truly allows for
21 adequate community representation.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. HAYEN: Thank you so much,
24 Laura.

25 Gail, if you could please raise

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2 your hand if you would like to speak,
3 Gail Payne.

4 Okay, thank you, Gail. We will
5 bring you into the session.

6 Our next speakers will be Paul
7 Merkelsen, Aaron Binder, Charles
8 Nieves, Christine Araos, Christian
9 Araos, and George Rathbaun.

10 Gail, we see you. You're not on
11 mute.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. HAYEN: We still can't hear
14 you. I'm so sorry. All written -- I'm
15 sorry for the technical difficulties.
16 You can submit written comments on our
17 website, LIPower.org and if you dial
18 in, there should be a phone number on
19 the registration, and you can try to
20 dial in, so we'll try to get you on
21 this live session. I'm sorry, Gail.

22 Paul Merkelsen, we're going to
23 bring you in next, followed by Aaron
24 Binder.

25 Paul, you're in our session.

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2 You're on mute. Okay, thank you.

3 You're unmuted. You'll have five
4 minutes.

5 (No response.)

6 MS. HAYEN: I'm not hearing Paul
7 as well.

8 MR. LOCASCIO: I can't either.

9 MS. HAYEN: Aaron Binder up next.
10 We're going to bring you into the
11 session. Hi, Paul.

12 MR. LOCASCIO: We can see you,
13 Paul, but we can't hear you.

14 MS. HAYEN: It says he's
15 connecting. Connecting to audio. Give
16 it a minute.

17 MR. MERKELSEN: Okay. I should be
18 on.

19 MS. HAYEN: Perfect. You're on.

20 MR. MERKELSEN: Okay. I should be
21 on. I'm on an iPad, and it's a little
22 rudimentary, some of the controls.

23 MS. HAYEN: No problem. We're
24 glad to have you.

25 MR. MERKELSEN: My name is Paul

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2 Merckelsen. I'm a resident of Port
3 Washington, and I've lived here with my
4 family for over 35 years. I grew up on
5 Long Island.

6 I want to thank you for holding
7 these public hearings. This is very
8 important that you hear the voice of
9 the public. And also I appreciate the
10 presentation on the option analysis, I
11 think that that shows the objectivity
12 and seriousness of the problem.

13 I have to say, people are very
14 concerned and even frightened by the
15 lack of preparedness for future
16 emergencies. Particularly those that
17 are climate-related.

18 You know, just within the last few
19 weeks NOAA's climate prediction center
20 predicted an above-normal Atlantic
21 hurricane season, and that's just the
22 statistic. We really don't know what's
23 coming. All we know is that storms are
24 increasing in frequency and severity.
25 And past performance and knowledge of

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2 what we did in the past successfully is
3 not necessarily, you know, an indicator
4 of how we'll handle these future
5 events.

6 Also, as reported last Thursday in
7 Newsday, LIPA's own report states that
8 customers face considerable risk as
9 storm season approaches, after finding
10 that PSEG still does not have a fully
11 tested storm outage management and
12 communication system in place.

13 This is really alarming for people
14 to read this. People go about their
15 lives, do their jobs, take care of
16 their families and friends, and not to
17 have that security and safety is truly
18 alarming in this day and age. It's a
19 serious problem.

20 It -- I want to say it's almost
21 laughable how bad PSEG's performance
22 has been. When you showed that chart
23 143 out of 144. I think it implies if
24 we got a better performing utility,
25 they could address these problems. But

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2 I have to say that it's very possible
3 that PSEG is just the worst of a bad
4 lot. This model doesn't work and we're
5 facing unprecedented challenges, and we
6 have to really question whether
7 privately owned companies can deal with
8 this.

9 They face a choice, they can
10 double-down on the utility model that's
11 followed all the storms and that fuels
12 even more brutal ones, or they can
13 transition to a system that's equipped
14 to handle these hurricanes. And to
15 help keep them from getting worse. The
16 question is whether they can be trusted
17 to choose well, and that's not been the
18 case to date.

19 When it comes to investor-owned
20 utilities, the issue isn't whether the
21 technology for such transformations is
22 available, but whether there are
23 profits to be made.

24 Privately-owned utilities limit
25 the solutions we can choose from to

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those that are profitable for the corporation. We risk situations in which the public is subject to the consequences of decisions that a private entity has made to maximize its only profit.

And as you showed, the public-owned utilities and co-ops nationwide fare as well or better than private sector utilities and the measures customers care about, customer satisfaction and liability.

They also tend to be leaders in clean energy. So this not a new approach, this is an approach that more municipalities are moving towards.

LIPA's own options analysis states that municipalization will result in savings of 65 to 70 million per year, compared to the PSEG Long Island contract. Municipal management is financially feasible, as you presented, and an attractive alternative to the single-source service provider model.

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2 You have a vital public
3 responsibility. People are depending
4 upon you for their safety and security.
5 We don't know what we're going to be
6 facing. We need to be well-prepared,
7 and we need to be fast and flexible.
8 We must build a system that protects
9 people and property first as a
10 priority. Thank you very much.

11 MS. HAYEN: Thank you so much,
12 Paul.

13 Our next speaker will be Aaron
14 Binder, followed by Charles Nieves,
15 Christian Araos, George Rathbaun, and
16 Margaret Galbraith.

17 Aaron, welcome. You're on mute.

18 MR. BINDER: Can you hear me?

19 MS. HAYEN: We can hear you. You
20 have five minutes.

21 MR. BINDER: Thank you, Ms. Hayen.

22 PSEG Long Island has been serving
23 Long Island for the past seven years,
24 and I've been with the company since
25 its inception.

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2 I'm not a big company executive,
3 I'm just an ordinary engineer. But let
4 me tell you, I'm proud to work for PSEG
5 Long Island. I am proud of what the
6 company has accomplished, it has
7 reduced wait times in its call center,
8 making PSEG Long Island among the best
9 in the industry. It's been ranked by
10 JD Power as one of the most-improved
11 utilities in the nation, and it has
12 done all of this while keeping its
13 rates competitive with other major
14 utilities in the New York Metropolitan
15 area.

16 Public service is an inseparable
17 part of PSEG Long Island, and customer
18 service is the backbone of PSEG Long
19 Island. Every PSEG Long Island
20 employee will attest to the fact that
21 the customer is at the heart of
22 everything that we do.

23 The current situation that we now
24 find ourselves in reminds me of a
25 relationship that one might have with

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2 one's wife or one's husband. But say
3 that you get married and you find out
4 that your spouse is very sloppy, she's
5 not neat and you divorce that spouse.
6 You got remarried. Your new spouse is
7 very neat, but is perpetually late. So
8 you divorce that spouse. You marry a
9 third spouse, that spouse is neat, on
10 time, but snores.

11 Are we going to divorce PSEG Long
12 Island because the company doesn't meet
13 all of our expectations every minute of
14 every day?

15 PSEG Long Island is not perfect
16 all of the time, but the company does
17 believe in continuous improvement.
18 Now, it's certainly not my intent to
19 trivialize our current situation by
20 using this analogy. Certainly no one
21 disputes the fact that during Tropical
22 Storm Isaias, PSEG Long Island did not
23 provide the quick restoration of
24 service that our customers expect.

25 But PSEG Long Island has been

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2 working nonstop since Isaias to resolve
3 all of the issues that our customers
4 have experienced and to prevent these
5 issues from reoccurring. During
6 Isaias, our customers could not easily
7 get into touch with us because of
8 bottlenecks and capacity limitations
9 with our telephone system.

10 PSEG Long Island has since made
11 multiple design changes, making our
12 telephone system robust enough to
13 handle 150,000 calls per hour. A level
14 that could have adequately handled the
15 peak calling hour that we experienced
16 during Isaias.

17 PSEG Long Island has its employees
18 working day and night during
19 restoration periods. We dispatch crews
20 from all over the country to help us
21 during our restoration efforts. Who is
22 going to do a better job, who is going
23 to have the magic bullet to meet
24 everyone's needs?

25 Climate scientists are predicting

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more and more severe storms during upcoming years. And the fact is that there is no magic bullet. From my perspective, LIPA has found a gem of a partner in PSEG Long Island. PSEG Long Island is not a perfect partner. No spouse and no company is.

But PSEG Long Island is a partner consisting of employees who actually love Long Island, who love Long Island's customers and who are more than willing to listen to LIPA and the people of Long Island to work with LIPA and the people of Long Island to move mountains to keep this relationship intact and to make Long Island customers happy.

I would respectfully urge LIPA to not sever this relationship. Thank you.

MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Aaron.

Gail, we're going to try you one more time, but with respect to all other participants, if it does not work

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2 this third time, we're going to kindly
3 request that you submit written
4 comments.

5 MS. PAYNE: Can you hear me?

6 MS. HAYEN: We can hear you.

7 MS. PAYNE: Okay, great.

8 MS. HAYEN: Welcome. Welcome,
9 Gail. You have five minutes.

10 MS. PAYNE: I'm so sorry for the
11 problems.

12 MS. HAYEN: No worries.

13 MS. PAYNE: Just came home, and
14 they helped me with that.

15 I'm Gail Payne. I'm Energy Chair
16 of Sierra Club Long Island Group. And
17 I have written -- I wrote letter to
18 LIPA Board of Trustees in March.

19 But I also want to say I'm also a
20 small business owner, website designer,
21 graphic designer, and I lost five days
22 of work during Hurricane Isaiah. So,
23 you know, this means a lot to me in a
24 lot of ways.

25 Okay, here's my letter. Friday

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2 March 19, 2021. When the Governor and
3 LIPA first brought in PSEG Long Island
4 in the wake of Superstorm Sandy, it
5 seemed to be the right move. PSEG
6 promised to be more transparent, more
7 communicative, and more resilient.

8 For a while, things went well.
9 But in the last year or more, PSEG Long
10 Island has not lived up to the promises
11 it made. We are glad that the LIPA
12 Board is considering public power. It
13 is time -- it is time for such a major
14 change.

15 We see several benefits of public
16 power. One, according to Newsday,
17 other places in the U.S. have
18 municipalized their utilities,
19 resulting in A, expanded solar power
20 and other renewables. B, more
21 efficiency programs. C, vastly
22 improved grid reliability. And D,
23 keeping rates below their state's
24 average.

25 Two, it would save tens of

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2 millions of dollars per year, money
3 that could be spent on resiliency grid
4 upgrades, clean energy investments, or
5 paying down debt.

6 Three, it would give Long
7 Islanders a say in their utility for a
8 more democratic grid.

9 Four, it would bring state
10 oversight that would mandate LIPA to
11 focus on reliability, accountability,
12 transparency, communication, and
13 resiliency.

14 And five, under state review and
15 regulation, funding that is currently
16 not available for many worthwhile
17 programs may become available.

18 Different models for this are
19 available through a more traditional
20 board structure, to a university based
21 one. But the new organization must
22 accept input from all stakeholders
23 including local environmental groups
24 and frontline communities including low
25 income communities and communities of

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2 color.

3 In light of these benefits, and
4 past reluctance of PSEG Long Island to
5 improve their accountability and
6 operations, it is time to move to a
7 more responsive, accountable, and
8 lower-cost public entity.

9 Thank you, on behalf of Sierra
10 Club Long Island's Group Executive
11 Committee.

12 MS. HAYEN: Thank you so much,
13 Gail.

14 MS. PAYNE: Thank you.

15 MS. HAYEN: Up next is Charles
16 Nieves, followed by Christian Araos,
17 George Rathbaun, Margaret Galbraith,
18 Eric Weltman, and Heather Clark.

19 If you would like to speak, please
20 raise your hand.

21 Charles, welcome to the webinar.
22 And you are on mute.

23 Hi Charles. We can hear you and
24 we can see. Thank you. You have five
25 minutes.

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2 MR. NIEVES: Good evening. My
3 name is Charles Nieves. I am the
4 Ecosocialist Working Group co-chair and
5 a steering committee member of the
6 Nassau County Democratic Socialists of
7 America.

8 I am echoing the comments of
9 earlier commenters in urging the LIPA
10 board to move ahead with full
11 municipalization as outlined in option
12 four and to do this without further
13 delay.

14 As others have outlined throughout
15 this meeting this evening, PSEG has a
16 track record. That track record is
17 abysmal, and it's a record of
18 incompetence, obfuscation, and flat-out
19 lies. And what do LIPA ratepayers,
20 such as myself, have to show for it?
21 Some of the highest rate in the region
22 and extremely substandard service.

23 All the more glaring by what a
24 storm that wasn't even a hurricane in
25 Isaias showed. After the terrible

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delays to restore service, the delays that largely are not shared by public-owned utilities like Freeport which had over 98 percent, its customers having restored their power post-Isaias by 10:00 a.m. the next morning as reported by the Wall Street Journal.

So what do we get from PSEG? More lies and misdirection, as I have heard from personally attending several LIPA board meetings and as the LIPA Board themselves have heard and, I believe, have even questioned PSEG directly.

So I ask this: How many times do we have to go back to the same well before we realize it doesn't work? Because that's what we consistently see from the public/private partnership that has been embodied by PSEG.

Others have outlined clearly the benefits of moving over to municipalization, and I won't repeat them other than to call for a fully

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2 municipalized and democrat LIPA that is
3 fully accountable to voters and
4 ratepayers, is representative of the
5 diverse communities that embody Long
6 Island, and is committed to moving to
7 renewable energy, as outlined by the
8 Climate Leadership Protection Act.

9 And is frankly the least that a
10 frontline region such as Long Island
11 should expect from its utility
12 provider. Thank you.

13 MS. HAYEN: Thank you. Thank you,
14 Charles.

15 Our next speaker is Christian
16 Araos. Followed by George Rathbaun,
17 Margaret Galbraith, Eric Weltman,
18 Heather Clark, and then Marjorie
19 Harrison.

20 Christian, welcome. You are on
21 mute.

22 MR. ARAOS: Thank you, good
23 evening. Hang on one second.

24 Good evening. My name is
25 Christian Araos. I'm from Huntington

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2 Station. I'm an organizer with the
3 Public Power of New York Campaign and
4 co-chair of Suffolk County DSA's
5 electoral working group.

6 There are certain actions for
7 which there's no redemption. Lying and
8 misleading hundreds of thousands of
9 Long Islanders as they sat in the dark
10 for over a week and then asking for
11 your annual bonus afterwards is one
12 them.

13 PSEG did this, and they are asking
14 for a second chance. Let's be clear,
15 this corporation does not deserve a
16 second chance.

17 Electricity is a common good that
18 we need to survive. Its distribution
19 and management must be handled in the
20 public interest, not for private
21 profit. PSEG operated Long Island's
22 electric grid with profit in mind.

23 You, the LIPA Board made your
24 recommendation put of the public
25 interest, and PSEG slow-walks or

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2 outright ignores implementing them.

3 LIPA has the staff and the knowledge to
4 provide reliable electricity to Long
5 Island, and it can take the first step
6 in doing so by dropping PSEG once and
7 for all.

8 The options analysis found that
9 local management can generate almost
10 \$1 billion dollars in total savings
11 over the next decade, establish local
12 accountability, and unify the entire
13 authority around the shared purpose of
14 serving the community.

15 Hurricanes, tropical storms,
16 blizzards, and nor'easters have tested
17 our community and will test it again.

18 Long Islanders know how to come
19 together in response, and I saw that
20 firsthand last year. I learned that
21 our community is more resilient than
22 our grid.

23 We need to make serious
24 infrastructure improvements to protect
25 ourselves from climate change and

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2 facilitate the transition to
3 100 percent renewable energy.

4 Our electric bills can either fund
5 these improvements or give company
6 executives millions of dollars in
7 managements fees. The public/private
8 partnership has made executives rich
9 and left the rest of us in the dark.
10 We deserve better.

11 Lastly, this message is
12 specifically for Governor Cuomo, State
13 Senator Kaminsky, Assembly Member
14 Englebright, and the entire Long Island
15 legislative delegation: We can
16 instruct an electric governance
17 approach that gives hundreds of
18 thousands of customers reliable and
19 affordable service.

20 We can change LIPA from an
21 authority hog-tied by regulations and a
22 failed public/private model which has
23 drawn communities from all backgrounds
24 together in frustration and to one that
25 empowers them.

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2 We can work together to address
3 the threat climate change brings to
4 Long Island, or we can sit in the dark
5 and jam a private company's rapid
6 response line. The choice is obvious.
7 Choose public power. Thank you.

8 MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Christian.
9 Our next speaker will be George
10 Rathbaun, followed by Margaret
11 Galbraith.

12 George, welcome. You are on mute.

13 MR. RATHBAUN: Okay, can you hear
14 me?

15 MS. HAYEN: Yes, we can hear you.
16 Welcome George. You have five minutes.

17 MR. RATHBAUN: Okay. Okay. Can
18 you hear me?

19 MS. HAYEN: Yes, we can hear you.

20 MR. RATHBAUN: Hi, I'm George
21 Rathbaun of Plainview New York.

22 I would like to comment on my own
23 experience as a customer of PSEG Long
24 Island. But first I'd like to thank
25 LIPA for holding this forum. I'd like

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2 to thank Tom Falcone, the LIPA Board,
3 and all LIPA employees for your
4 diligence in making sure Long Island's
5 energy needs are best cared for. So
6 thank you.

7 So up to Isaias, I was extremely
8 happy with PSEG Long Island service,
9 both operationally and customer
10 service-wise. And the people I know
11 were also.

12 During Isaias, I was blessed to
13 have my power back on the first night,
14 and it stayed on. But my assistant at
15 work did not get his power back on for
16 a full week. So I felt his pain. I
17 saw him every day at work come in. I
18 would look at him; he would shake his
19 head no. So that was completely
20 unacceptable. I was furious right
21 along with him.

22 But my bottom line is that I
23 honestly feel PSEG was stellar for many
24 years, far better than National Grid.
25 But, yes, they stumbled and honestly

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2 fell down for many customers during
3 Isaias. But as a manager, as a father
4 myself, I know that failure is
5 inevitable with people, and that's what
6 PSEG is.

7 PSEG Long Island is actually a
8 group of incredibly dedicated Long
9 Islanders, working day and night
10 through heavy snow, terrible rain,
11 strong winds to keep us powered. So I
12 do not think we should end the
13 relationship with PSEG Long Island over
14 what I feel is one stumble and fall.
15 Give them a second chance to dust
16 themselves off, to look inward at their
17 failure to fix what went wrong.

18 As a previous caller, Aaron, just
19 said, he can tell you firsthand the
20 people of PSEG Long Island love Long
21 Island. They love their customers.
22 They want to do better.

23 So I'd like to leave you with this
24 last thought, PSEG Long Island deserves
25 a second chance. I implore the good

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2 people of LIPA to give the good people
3 of PSEG Long Island the chance to
4 continue their dedicated service.
5 Thank you.

6 MS. HAYEN: Thank you George.
7 Our next speaker is Margaret
8 Galbraith. After Margaret, we have
9 Eric, Heather Clark -- Eric Weltman,
10 excuse me -- heather Clark and Marjorie
11 Harrison.

12 I'll remind participants, if you
13 would like to speak, please raise your
14 hand, or we're coming up on our last
15 three speakers -- last four speakers.

16 Margaret, you are here. Welcome.
17 You're not on mute. We can hear you.

18 MS. GALBRAITH: Hi.

19 MS. HAYEN: Hi.

20 MS. GALBRAITH: My name is
21 Margaret Galbraith, and I'm on the
22 steering committee of Transition Town
23 Port Washington, a resident-based
24 group, working to build a more
25 sustainable and resilient peninsula.

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2 We're proud to join with the Long
3 Island Progressive Coalition, the Food
4 & Water Watch, and over 30 other
5 organizations across the region calling
6 on LIPA to terminate its contract with
7 PSEG and to fully municipalize Long
8 Island Power. So we want option four.

9 We are well-too-aware of the
10 failure of the private/public
11 partnership that repeatedly puts
12 profits over people. We saw how
13 because of PSEG's failure, residents
14 across Long Island were left in the
15 dark for weeks after Tropical Storm
16 Isaias. And now, over a year later,
17 PSEG still does not have a fully-tested
18 storm outage management and
19 communication system in place.

20 And if we needed further
21 reminding, just last winter, we saw the
22 incredible devastation wrought by a
23 blizzard in Texas because their
24 electric company had chosen not to take
25 basic, necessary precautions against

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climate change. Thousands were left in the cold and many people died.

As a Long Islander, and as a mother, I feel we are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and we need accountability and commitment from our electric utilities. And that is simply not going to happen with a public/private model. People who are stakeholders are interested in the bottom line.

Across the country, however, publicly owned utilities have proven more affordable, reliable, and resilient. They are more responsive to customer needs, yielding better customer satisfaction. They're shorter -- they have shorter outage times, that which safeguard our food and our medicine.

And moreover, through a democratically-owned LIPA, we can assure that Long Island fulfills it's legal and moral obligation to

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2 transition to a 100 percent clean,
3 renewable energy.

4 In fact, all of the companies that
5 use a hundred percent renewable energy
6 are public. So it is now time that we
7 establish a new standard for
8 accountability, equity, resilience, and
9 democracy in our energy system and make
10 LIPA public power.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Margaret.
13 Up next is Eric Weltman. We had a few
14 more people raise their hands. On deck
15 is Heather Clark, Marjorie Harrison,
16 Lisa Tyson, Patrick Robbins, and George
17 Povall.

18 Eric, welcome. You are on mute.

19 MR. WELTMAN: Can you hear me?

20 MS. HAYEN: We can hear you. You
21 have five minutes.

22 MR. WELTMAN: My name is Eric
23 Weltman, and I'm an organizer with the
24 Food & Water Watch, a non-profit
25 environmental organization. We're

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2 proud to join the Long Island
3 Progressive coalition, Mother's Out
4 Front, DSA, Transition Town Port
5 Washington, and over 30 other
6 organizations across the region in the
7 reimagined LIPA campaign.

8 Tonight I'm calling on the LIPA
9 Board as well as Governor Cuomo, State
10 Senator Kaminsky, and the other members
11 of Long Island's legislative delegation
12 to support public power for Long
13 Island.

14 As detailed months ago, in the
15 reimagined LIPA statement, the time to
16 reimagine this utility is long overdue.
17 The updated options analysis affirmed
18 our convictions and makes clear that
19 terminating the contract with PSEG and
20 moving to a fully municipal authority
21 is the best option. That process must
22 begin now.

23 The evidence is painfully clear,
24 PSEG can't fix the problem, because
25 they are the problem.

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2 But the solution is not handing
3 over the system to another corporation.
4 Long Island needs accountability and a
5 commitment from its electric utility,
6 and we're not going to get this from a
7 public/private model. It's time to
8 establish new standards for
9 accountability, equity, resilience, and
10 democracy in our energy system and for
11 us to create institutions with the
12 capacity and expertise necessary to
13 meet these standards.

14 We need an energy system that will
15 prevent climate catastrophe by moving
16 the region off fossil fuels and
17 transition Long Island to solar or wind
18 power.

19 We can save a lot of time and
20 energy, pain and suffering, dawdling
21 and delaying by swiftly ending LIPA's
22 contract with PSEG and moving to a
23 democratically accountable completely
24 public system.

25 Decades of bitter experience have

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shown that public/private partnerships don't work. We have a problem with the outrage management system and the best option is to rephrase it.

I don't know what alternative corporate provider you have in mind as an option, but I really hope it's not Con Edison. Public power works from New York to Nebraska to Sacramento, California is a proven system for performing reliable energy.

Public power is the means by which we can ensure that Long Island fulfills our moral and legal obligation to transition to a 100 percent clean renewal energy.

A municipalized system should be paired with a partnership with a nonprofit institution to conduct community engagement and accountable and representative board and reformed mission statement, ensuring a commitment to climate justice, equity, and democracy.

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2 In conclusion, the Food & Water
3 Watch calls on the LIPA board, the
4 Cuomo administration, Senator Kaminsky,
5 and the entire Long Island legislative
6 delegation to grasp that now is the
7 moment, now is our moment to reimagine
8 LIPA and corporate control and abuse of
9 our energy systems and realize the
10 benefits of public power and full
11 municipalization, real accountability,
12 reliable service, affordable power and
13 a transition off fossil fuels.

14 Thank you very much.

15 MS. HAYEN: Thank you Eric.

16 Our next speaker is Heather Clark,
17 followed by Patrick Robbins, George
18 Povall, Lisa Tyson, Fred Harrison, and
19 Thomas David.

20 Hi, Heather.

21 MS. CLARK: Hi.

22 MS. HAYEN: Hi Heather, we can see
23 and hear you. You have five minutes.

24 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

25 I just wanted to express my

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2 support for option number four. I'd
3 love to see -- I'm sorry, my name is
4 Heather Clark, and I'm mostly speaking
5 on behalf of myself as a citizen of
6 Port Washington on Long Island. But
7 I'm also a member of the Transition
8 Town Port Washington group.

9 And in addition to their message
10 about the sustainability and resilience
11 that a public option would offer us, I
12 just wanted to speak to how terribly
13 PSEG has defaced our town without any
14 public input, without any warning, with
15 no -- I don't know, discussion.

16 80-foot poles were replaced along
17 our main street. I know this happened
18 in several other communities, too.
19 They were supposed to be placed in
20 replacement of shorter poles. The
21 poles are still there so it's just a
22 city of horrible utility poles in our
23 town.

24 It's harmed property values; it's
25 hurt the beauty and face of our town.

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2 And it's also harmed our trees, which
3 are one of most precious and beautiful
4 resources on Long Island and in Port
5 Washington. Not only have they defaced
6 countless trees with really senseless
7 trimming to the point of mutilation or
8 killing the trees, but in a lot of
9 instances, it did not seem to make much
10 of any difference in terms of how many
11 power outages we're seeing locally and
12 widespread.

13 So I would love to see a public
14 option where they bring the public's
15 opinions, the public's input into
16 choices like that that really impact us
17 on a community level. Thank you.

18 MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Heather.

19 Next up is Marjorie Harrison -- I
20 misspoke on the order before --
21 followed by Lisa Tyson.

22 Marjorie, welcome. You're on
23 mute. There you go.

24 MS. HARRISON: Thank you. Thank
25 you very much.

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2 MS. HAYEN: You have five minutes.

3 MS. HARRISON: Thank you very
4 much. My name is Marjorie Harrison. I
5 work with a group called Ratepayers
6 Alert.

7 Picking up on the title of this
8 meeting, reforming Long Island's
9 electric service, I'm proud to say I've
10 been organizing with my neighbors
11 around -- improving Long Island's
12 electric service going back to the
13 mid-1970s.

14 And I have to say, I find this
15 proceeding a little bit baffling
16 because when this was first announced,
17 in my recollection, we were looking at
18 the LIPA's Board making an
19 appropriately timed -- I mean, now
20 decision to go with municipalization or
21 at least to make a decision about it.
22 And that was what the hearing was
23 supposed to be about in my view.

24 But now, ironically, we find
25 ourselves having a hearing, and it

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hasn't necessarily been brought out,
but according to a recent board vote
and a desire to search for more
options -- I think it's called the
request for information -- we're
looking at a situation where, according
to Mark Harrington's coverage in
Newsday, we may not see any decision by
the LIPA Board on the four options
until 12 to 24 months from now.

Now, hopefully that won't be the
case, but when we consider the fact
that we're taking a pass on a hundred
million dollars a year in fees, and you
can consider the fact that from my
entire adult lifetime, Long Islanders
have struggled with some of the highest
rates on Long Island, and we find
ourselves in a situation where these
who are in control of our electric
service are not grabbing at the
opportunity to bring that money home.

And it's very doable. I mean,
Tom Falcone knows his stuff; he knows

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2 this can be done. Yes, there are
3 things that are going to have to be
4 considered carefully, and they will be.

5 I just am baffled by the fact that
6 here's an opportunity to say to Long
7 Islanders, we understand the ongoing
8 burden of high rates not only for
9 people who are homeowners who have to
10 pay high bill or school districts.
11 Everybody who turns on a switch on Long
12 Island is paying very high rates and
13 has been for decades. Now we have an
14 opportunity to systemically lower those
15 rates by squeezing out the profit.

16 Now, that is exactly what the
17 historic mission of public power was,
18 going back over a hundred years ago.
19 This is a basic need, it's a monopoly,
20 it should not be subject to profit
21 taking.

22 In fact, it's a very American,
23 libertarian idea. Everybody from the
24 left, right, and center can agree that
25 we shouldn't have to pay profits for a

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2 basic need that can be provided
3 efficaciously at a lower cost, that we
4 ourselves should keep that money.

5 Small business owners should be
6 able to have lower rates, people who
7 are struggling to own homes so they can
8 pass something on to their children in
9 the form of wealth, real estate wealth,
10 find it harder to do that on Long
11 Island because everything is higher in
12 cost for everybody who has to turn on
13 the electricity.

14 And so there's a responsibility
15 here to grab whatever savings.
16 90 million, a hundred million may not
17 sound like a lot; but, to me, it does.
18 It sounds like a lot of money that can
19 be used to start us on a slope of
20 bringing those rates under control.

21 And that urgency, I don't feel.
22 I'm disappointed that the board members
23 are not here to hear this broad array
24 of public views.

25 So I ask you to act expeditiously

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2 and cautiously, and I think your staff
3 has shown there is the common sense,
4 common sense economics and the skill
5 set to get this done, bring the money
6 home, and let's bring down the cost of
7 living on Long Island.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Marjorie.

10 And I will note for the record, we
11 do have trustees viewing the
12 livestream, and we will report on all
13 the comments at the June board meeting.

14 Next up is Lisa Tyson, followed by
15 Patrick Robbins, George Povall, Fred
16 Harrison, and Thomas David.

17 MS. TYSON: Hello, can you hear
18 me?

19 MS. HAYEN: Lisa, you have five
20 minutes.

21 MS. TYSON: Thank you. I'm Lisa
22 Tyson, director of the Long Island
23 Progressive Coalition. Thank you for
24 having this hearing.

25 After Superstorm Sandy and last

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2 August's Tropical Storm Isaias, two
3 points are clear: Storms are getting
4 worse and more frequent and trust in
5 LIPA's public/private partnerships are
6 plummeting.

7 Long Island will continue to
8 experience worse outages unless LIPA
9 undergoes serious structural changes
10 now.

11 We are about to go into storm
12 season, and it is clear, we do not have
13 the communication system. And me, as a
14 Long Islander, I'm very worried about
15 everyone here.

16 Following extensive reports on the
17 mismanagements, LIPA Board members have
18 proposed several potential paths. Of
19 these choices, there's only one, and
20 that's to fully municipalize LIPA. And
21 that can bring the affordable and
22 reliable electrical services Long
23 Islanders deserve.

24 Since LIPA's creation in 1986, it
25 has relied on partnerships with private

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2 power companies to provide electrical
3 operations and customer service. But
4 running an energy system today is a lot
5 different than ever before. Storms are
6 increasing in frequency and in
7 destruction. We saw that in Sandy.

8 As anyone who remembers that, it
9 was serious. And the CLCPA, the
10 Climate Communities Protection Act
11 reduction goals require
12 responsibilities beyond what today's
13 private energy utilities were built
14 for.

15 DPS and LIPA reports are clear,
16 PSEG is the wrong choice. Their
17 computer system malfunctions and
18 they've been lying to us. 535,000
19 customers went without power or answers
20 when the storm hit.

21 And PSEG is not alone, in 2019,
22 another New York private utility, Con
23 Ed raised 350 million dollars to
24 modernize relay protection systems in
25 Downstate New York and then scraped up

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2 the plans without adequately explaining
3 where the money went.

4 Unsurprisingly, but no less
5 dangerously, those regions of the
6 electrical grid went without power
7 during heat waves during the summer.
8 It doesn't have to be this way.

9 Across the country, 2,000 public
10 power utilities serve almost fifteen
11 percent of Americans, offering
12 13 percent cheaper rates and 46 percent
13 shorter outage times than private
14 utilities.

15 In the face of worsening storms,
16 Winter Park, Florida voted to
17 municipalize in 2003. They've since
18 expanded their solar generation, vastly
19 improved their grid, while keeping the
20 rates low.

21 Some fear inefficiency from public
22 agencies, but municipal utilities have
23 proven remarkably innovative. In 1966,
24 Chattanooga's electric power board
25 began investing in fiber optics, laying

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2 the groundwork for a world class smart
3 grid that has reduced power outages by
4 60 percent and saved the city close to
5 \$60 million annually.

6 LIPA must learn from Chattanooga
7 and Winter Park. Private partnerships
8 are in the past. Ownership management
9 operations have to be held by the
10 people.

11 To properly represent LIPA, the
12 board must include best representation
13 of critical local stakeholders from
14 resilience experts to community and
15 environmental advocates. Planning and
16 operations must be informed by robust
17 public partnership and part of the
18 universities and local organizations.

19 And, honestly, like we have to get
20 rid of the out-of-touch CEOs who are
21 just trying to make money for their
22 stockholders and just trying to look at
23 profits. That's what's driving PSEG
24 and Con Ed and all the rest.

25 This is why we're calling for an

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observatory model, which is taken from Paris, from the Paris Water Authority. It's an independent nongovernmental organization whose mission is to convene stakeholders, conduct research, and promote sustained inclusive public engagement and participatory democracy in pursuit of an innovative, affordable, and reliable power system on Long Island. Its guiding principles are inclusion, equity, resilience and climate justice.

We want to make sure we give a big shout-out to the workers of the IBW. Thank you so much for your hard work, know that storms are so stressful, all of you are doing a great job.

We do believe that in a fully municipalized system, the workers will be better off. They will be part of the State system, and they will be part of all of us in moving our region together as one region.

So let's stop the blame game and

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2 start relying on solutions that are
3 proven to work. The waters are getting
4 rougher time, it's time for the
5 customers and the residents of Long
6 Island to take the helm and steer a new
7 course for LIPA. Thank you.

8 MS. HAYEN: Thank you for that.

9 Our next speaker is Patrick
10 Robbins.

11 MR. ROBBINS: Hey, can you hear
12 me?

13 MS. HAYEN: We can hear you, and
14 we can see you. Welcome.

15 MR. ROBBINS: Great. Thank you so
16 much, and thank you for holding this
17 hearing.

18 My name is Patrick Robbins, and
19 I'm the coordinator of the New York
20 City Energy Democracy Alliance. We are
21 an alliance of 27 different
22 organizations from all over New York
23 State who are working together for an
24 energy system that is renewable and
25 equitable, accountable, and local.

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2 I'm testifying today because the
3 decision that is being considered is an
4 enormously important one, not just for
5 Long Island but for the state, as well,
6 as a whole. This is a fork in the
7 road, an opportunity for New York State
8 to embrace a utility model that puts
9 people over profit.

10 I urge the LIPA Board to terminate
11 its contract with PSEG and chart a
12 course for public power.

13 I'm really glad Lisa brought up
14 Con Edison. One option that the board,
15 I understand, is currently considering
16 is other private providers like Con
17 Edison. This is one of the worst
18 options on the table. And I say that
19 not in my professional role but as a
20 New Yorker.

21 I was born and raised in Brooklyn,
22 and I've lived in Brooklyn all my life,
23 I've seen firsthand how corporate
24 utilities like Con Edison consistently
25 put profits before people. Con Edison

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2 is a company with \$58 billion in
3 assets, according to its most recent
4 filings with the Securities and
5 Exchange Commission.

6 Its sole method for making profits
7 is charging New Yorkers for an
8 essential service, and, in doing so,
9 it's done very well for itself.
10 Shareholders received 1.3 billion in
11 net income in 2019. This is just
12 slightly higher than the amount
13 customers across the state are
14 currently in debt on their energy
15 bills.

16 The economic devastation of the
17 pandemic has thrown electric and gas
18 customers into \$1.2 billion of debt
19 across the state. And we still haven't
20 recovered from historic lows in
21 employment, not to mention the human
22 tragedy of losing loved ones and being
23 pushed out of a job.

24 If Con Edison were a company that
25 ran a public service for the public

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good, it would try to lower its rates or forgive some of that debt, but Con Edison is not that company. It has done nothing for the people of New York, and, meanwhile, the Department of Public Service has been proposing a voluntary debt relief commitment of just 4 percent from utility shareholders, with the lion's share of relief falling back onto the working people of New York State.

Even worse, Con Ed has done an unforgivable job as part of its core function, with essentially no consequences.

The blackouts that rocked New York City in 2019, were entirely preventible if Con Edison had spent the money it won in its rate case on the necessary upgrades to the substation that malfunctioned, causing the blackouts. These upgrades were not made. Instead, this money lined the pockets of shareholders.

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2 And as a result, we see more and
3 more blackouts every year. It has a
4 track record of charging New Yorkers
5 higher and higher profits for service
6 that just gets worse and worse.

7 This is the road you're
8 considering taking us down if you put
9 management of LIPA out to bid for
10 privatized corporate utilities. There
11 is a better way.

12 We can have a democratic LIPA that
13 is accountable to our communities.
14 It's an opportunity to reimagine it to
15 work for the public good.

16 And we echo our colleagues' calls
17 for the following: A formalized
18 partnership with a Long Island
19 University-based energy observatory to
20 contract with LIPA. To conduct
21 community engagement and research and
22 in order to offer recommendations to
23 the board on clean energy, ratepayer
24 protections, worker issues, and climate
25 justice, which the Board is obligated

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2 to consider and respond to.

3 An accountable and representative
4 Board that includes at least in part
5 the direct election of members from
6 ratepayers residing within equally
7 apportioned districts in service areas
8 and proper oversight by the public
9 service commission and the modification
10 of the mission of LIPA to include
11 climate justice, energy democracy, and
12 equity.

13 Finally, I want to say that as a
14 statewide coalition, we're excited to
15 hear the call for public power growing
16 louder and louder across the state.

17 This is evident in measures like
18 the New York Build Public Renewables
19 Act which would empower NIPA to sell
20 low-cost renewable energy across the
21 state and evident in everyday people
22 standing up against exploitive rate
23 hikes and fossil fuel pipelines.

24 Long Island has the opportunity to
25 be a leader in this growing movement.

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2 We call on the LIPA Board, Governor
3 Andrew Cuomo, and the Long Island state
4 legislative delegation to support
5 public power for Long Island.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MS. HAYEN: Our next speaker is
8 George Povall, followed by Fred
9 Harrison and Thomas David. Again, if
10 anyone else would like to speak, please
11 raise your hand.

12 Welcome, George. You're on mute.
13 Hi, we can see you. I'm sorry, George,
14 we cannot hear you. Give George a
15 minute.

16 MR. POVALL: Are you able to hear
17 me now?

18 MS. HAYEN: Yes, we can hear you.

19 MR. POVALL: Okay. Great.

20 MS. HAYEN: Welcome.

21 MR. POVALL: Thank you very much.
22 Everybody at LIPA and everybody
23 listening, my name is George Povall,
24 I'm the executive director of All Our
25 Energy. We're a Long Island-based

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2 nonprofit aimed to empower the public
3 to take action on climate change and
4 local environmental protection.

5 And I'm here today to address the
6 LIPA Board, as we have throughout this
7 whole process. But I also really want
8 to address Governor Andrew Cuomo and
9 the Long Island Delegation of State
10 Senators and the assembly members to
11 really listen.

12 The time has come to make a
13 change. When the Governor and LIPA
14 first brought PSEG Long Island in the
15 wake of Superstorm Sandy, it was an
16 idea whose time had come of a
17 private/public partnership that could
18 grow and provide Long Island with the
19 best of both worlds.

20 And for a time, it really was on
21 track to be, but over the last several
22 years, it just hasn't. It's fallen
23 flat again and has just never lived up
24 to those late-stage promises made that
25 we were told that would make LIPA

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2 better, more transparent, more
3 communicative, and more resilient.

4 In other places where they
5 municipalized, they've been able to
6 expand on renewable energy much easier,
7 and they've vastly improved grid
8 reliability while keeping rates low
9 and, actually, below most other places'
10 averages.

11 Seeing that municipalization would
12 save \$70 million a year, that could
13 easily be spent on resiliency, grid
14 upgrades, clean energy investments, or
15 to pay down debt or to give consumers a
16 break. It just seems like out of all
17 the options, option four is really the
18 only path forward.

19 We need to put LIPA back fully
20 under State review and regulation like
21 every other utility is in New York
22 State, which would open us up to so
23 many other available options for
24 funding and other mechanisms that we
25 can be using for clean energy and

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2 renewable energy.

3 And municipalization would give
4 Long Islanders much more of a say in
5 the utility, which would help bring all
6 of those things to pass. In light of
7 this, and in light of the -- just
8 complete refusal of PSEG Long Island to
9 improve or to be accountable, it's just
10 time to move on.

11 I have to mention, you know, to
12 hear in the LIPA board meeting just
13 last week that they still are failing
14 their own tests of the systems that
15 they're working on at this late stage.
16 I mean, what do we have to do?

17 I mean, it's just -- it's
18 mind-boggling that we're having this
19 discussion. We have let -- you know,
20 somebody spoke earlier about a second
21 chance, but I feel like we're on the
22 15th or the 20th chance and been met
23 with just an impasse to improve.

24 The time has come for a strong,
25 publicly-run LIPA. Please take it

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2 under consideration and make it happen.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. HAYEN: Thank you, George.

5 Our next speaker is Fred Harrison,

6 followed by our last speaker, Thomas

7 David.

8 MR. FRED HARRISON: Are we good?

9 MS. HAYEN: We're good, we can
10 hear you. You have five minutes.

11 MR. FRED HARRISON: My name is
12 Fred Harrison. I'm a retired teacher
13 living in Merrick. I volunteer with
14 Food & Water Watch.

15 I have followed the story, or
16 should I say trials and tribulations of
17 LIPA for the past 35 years. I was one
18 of the five plaintiffs involved in a
19 successful racketeering suit against
20 Logo (phonetic). So I know a bit about
21 the machinations of investor-owned
22 utilities.

23 Since Isaias, I have been
24 attending by Zoom LIPA board meetings,
25 listening in on staff presentation, and

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reading all of the documents made available. And I find myself at a loss to explain the board's failure to recommend termination of the PSEG contract.

The facts as presented by the staff in each of their updates options analysis point to the benefits of a nonprofit electric utility system. Those facts have been out there for five months. That's five months and \$35 million in lost ratepayer savings.

Now as the hot water looms and electric bills inevitably soar, one would think that the board would be absolutely intent on protecting ratepayer interests. Sadly, that does not appear to be case.

Even sadder is the fact that they aren't even on screen respectfully listening. We need to see their faces and reactions. I personally find their absence insulting.

So it's fair to ask, who on the

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2 LIPA board would possibly oppose a more
3 affordable nonprofit electric system.
4 After all we have nonprofit public
5 schools, hospitals, libraries,
6 universities, fire protection, police
7 protection, beaches, parks, and for
8 most Long Islanders, nonprofit water.

9 So who would be opposed to
10 expeditiously moving to the municipal
11 option, particularly given the
12 undisputed savings.

13 We can begin with private
14 companies that profit from keeping
15 things as they are. Certainly,
16 National Grid wants to protect its
17 profits and the power it supplies us,
18 and purchase power make up 40 percent
19 of our bills. And those power
20 producers want to continue making
21 money, feeding us their carbon-fueled
22 electricity.

23 And, of course, PSEG favors the
24 profit model. No surprise, we've heard
25 Mr. Eichhorn make this case month after

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2 month. There's nothing evil about it,
3 it's just too expensive and puts
4 profits before service.

5 There is some who have reached the
6 conclusion that the LIPA Board is a big
7 part of the problem. My state senator,
8 John Brooks, thinks that's the case and
9 has cosponsored legislation in calling
10 for an elected LIPA with strong
11 oversight.

12 Some of the board may find this
13 proposal political grandstanding, but I
14 can tell you it reflects the angler and
15 sentiment towards PSEG and high
16 electric rates.

17 Others have added that the board
18 does not reflects Long Island's
19 diversity in terms of race, gender,
20 ethnicity, or income. So, of course,
21 they question whether the decisions
22 made would put ratepayers first.

23 What we do know for sure is that
24 this board has not been frank and open
25 with the public. We need them to

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2 explain their indecisiveness. We are
3 not permitted question and answer
4 sessions at board meetings. We have no
5 opportunity to speak formally or
6 informally with board members.
7 Moreover, board members do not need to
8 explain their decisions.

9 Mr. Fishcl has been the only
10 trustee to give us any sense of his
11 thinking. So let's be radical, each of
12 the board members should agree to
13 testify on the 27th.

14 After five months of study, that's
15 not too much to ask. Right now, they
16 are enigmas. What each of them think
17 and where each of them stand on the
18 options in front of us is information
19 that has been missing these past
20 months.

21 Without that information,
22 ratepayers cannot judge for themselves
23 whether or not they are being
24 respectfully and adequately
25 represented.

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2 Secondly, I ask that the board
3 take stakeholder involvement seriously
4 and hold an advisory ratepayer
5 referendum. As far as I can tell,
6 there was little to no effort on Lipa's
7 part to inform the public of these
8 hearings.

9 Research should be put into bills
10 educating ratepayers with return
11 ballots so ratepayers can truly weigh
12 in on this decision. Ratepayers need
13 to be invited in. And I applaud those
14 who have taken the time to participate
15 in the hearings tonight. Thank you.

16 MS. HAYEN: Thank you, Fred.

17 I will note for the record that
18 the board has directed LIPA's staff to
19 hold these hearings. They are
20 listening on the livestream, and LIPA's
21 staff will report all comments in
22 summary to the LIPA Board at the June
23 2021 meeting.

24 Our last speaker is Thomas David.
25 Again, last call. If anyone would like

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2 to speak, please raise your hand or
3 press "star 6" on your mobile device.

4 Thomas, welcome. You are on mute.
5 Tom, I don't know if you can hear us,
6 but you are still on mute.

7 Written comments can also be
8 submitted to our LIPA website. All
9 comments will be posted to our website
10 and will be available for public
11 review.

12 Thomas, I will give you a couple
13 of more seconds. I'm sorry if you're
14 having technical difficulties. Okay.

15 Otherwise, I'm going to turn it
16 over to LIPA's chief executive officer,
17 Tom Falcone, with some closing remarks.

18 Tom?

19 MR. FALCONE: Thank you, Jenn.
20 And thank you, Tom Locascio, who joined
21 us here as well as the LIPA board
22 members that are watching via the live
23 stream.

24 I appreciate everybody coming out,
25 a lot of people obvious -- very, very

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obvious who have been reading the reports and following this very closely. Many, many of the speakers tonight we've had the opportunity to hear from at numerous board meetings. And I know that that was the intent that the board had in asking for these public comment hearings for the options to be clearly and factually presented in a neutral tone for us to hear from our stakeholders about what you'd like the board's decision to be.

So I just want to close by thanking the speakers for your time, for your interest, for your comments tonight. Especially those that went last and hung all the way in there.

We have another hearing this Thursday, and I'm looking forward to hearing from more speakers on Thursday night.

So thank you very much and look forward to hearing from you.

MS. HAYEN: Thank you all.

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2 Once again, all materials and
3 reports referenced tonight, including
4 the presentation given by our CEO,
5 along with the recording of this
6 session will be available on our
7 website.

8 As Tom just mentioned, our second
9 and final public comment session will
10 be held this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. If
11 you would like to watch, there is a
12 livestream available on our website.

13 Tonight's session was livestreamed
14 on our website and Thursday's session
15 will be as well.

16 Thank you all. Have a great
17 night.

18 (Whereupon, at 7:42 P.M., the
19 above matter concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

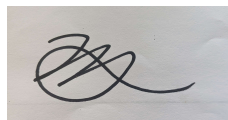
STATE OF NEW YORK)
 : SS.:
COUNTY OF RICHMOND)

I, MADELINE TAVANI, a Notary Public for
and within the State of New York, do hereby
certify:

That the above is a correct
transcription of my stenographic notes.

I further certify that I am not related
to any of the parties to this action by
blood or by marriage and that I am in no way
interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 30th day May, 2021.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized, with a large 'M' and 'T'.

MADELINE TAVANI

<p>MR. ARAOS: [1] 71/22</p> <p>MR. BINDER: [2] 60/18 60/21</p> <p>MR. FALCONE: [2] 6/6 114/19</p> <p>MR. FRED HARRISON: [2] 108/8 108/11</p> <p>MR. LOCASCIO: [4] 26/21 48/8 55/8 55/12</p> <p>MR. MADDEN: [1] 27/1</p> <p>MR. MERKELSEN: [3] 55/17 55/20 55/25</p> <p>MR. NIEVES: [1] 69/1</p> <p>MR. POVALL: [3] 104/16 104/19 104/21</p> <p>MR. RATHBAUN: [3] 75/13 75/17 75/20</p> <p>MR. ROBBINS: [2] 98/11 98/15</p> <p>MR. SHEARMAN: [3] 34/3 34/6 39/24</p>	<p>MR. WELTMAN: [2] 81/19 81/22</p> <p>MS. BROWN: [1] 44/25</p> <p>MS. CLARK: [2] 85/21 85/24</p> <p>MS. GALBRAITH: [2] 78/18 78/20</p> <p>MS. HARRISON: [2] 87/24 88/3</p> <p>MS. HAYEN: [50] 5/1 25/22 26/24 33/22 34/5 39/22 40/3 44/18 47/23 48/6 48/9 48/17 53/23 54/13 55/6 55/9 55/14 55/19 55/23 60/11 60/19 64/22 65/6 65/8 65/12 68/12 68/15 71/13 75/8 75/15 75/19 78/6 78/19 81/12 81/20 85/15 85/22 87/18 88/1 92/9 92/19 98/8 98/13 104/7 104/18 104/20 108/4 108/9 113/16 115/25</p>	<p>MS. MCKELLAR: [2] 48/16 48/19</p> <p>MS. PAYNE: [5] 65/5 65/7 65/10 65/13 68/14</p> <p>MS. ROBERTI: [1] 40/10</p> <p>MS. TYSON: [2] 92/17 92/21</p> <hr/> <p>\$</p> <hr/> <p>\$1 [1] 73/10</p> <p>\$1 billion [1] 73/10</p> <p>\$1.2 [1] 100/18</p> <p>\$1.2 billion [1] 100/18</p> <p>\$100 [1] 22/4</p> <p>\$32 [1] 14/11</p> <p>\$35 [1] 109/13</p> <p>\$35 million [1] 109/13</p> <p>\$4.2 [1] 11/13</p> <p>\$5 [1] 22/7</p> <p>\$5 million [1] 22/7</p> <p>\$58 [1] 100/2</p> <p>\$58 billion [1] 100/2</p> <p>\$60 [1] 96/5</p> <p>\$60 million [1] 96/5</p>
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13 percent [1]	2021 [4] 1/8 66/2	48 [1] 3/14
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143 [1] 57/23	2030 [1] 46/21	55 [1] 3/16
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95/2 112/24	aftermath [2]	10/12 12/7 13/7
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85/4	afterwards [1]	25/7 25/14 26/1
adopted [4] 6/14	72/11	26/5 36/14 40/17
6/24 11/2 11/21	again [9] 36/4	42/11 47/6 49/4

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69/23 73/7 74/23	alternative [2]	115/19
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96/24 97/17 97/23	am [7] 40/22 61/5	answers [1] 94/19
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113/21 114/8	69/7	117/13
115/18 115/25	American [1]	anyone [3] 94/8
116/2 116/16	90/22	104/10 113/25
alliance [3] 4/21	Americans [2]	anything [2]
98/20 98/21	37/7 95/11	12/10 50/15
allowing [1] 47/7	among [5] 11/3	appear [1] 109/19
allows [1] 53/20	11/16 21/15 21/17	applaud [1]
almost [4] 37/6	61/8	113/13
57/20 73/9 95/10	amount [1]	application [1]
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along [7] 5/11	amounts [1] 11/12	applied [1] 12/7
24/9 32/12 39/14	analogy [1] 62/20	appointed [2]
76/21 86/16 116/5	analysis [12] 5/6	23/24 32/7
alongside [2] 5/24	6/11 6/13 7/12	apportioned [3]
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