

**Name:**

Joseph Varon

**Comment:**

As a Long Island utility ratepayer. I am here to say that this new contract does not fix the fundamentally flawed "public/private" model of our utility, where the public takes all the risks and losses, and the private party gets all the perks, profits, and passes on their failures. We need to municipalize.

Delay the decision until all information is available.

I am concerned that this contract is moving ahead before the Attorney General finishes her investigation into whether PSEG LI's failed storm Isaias response broke state laws and before we know the fate of the new storm outage-management computer system that PSEG-LI management has neglected time and again to deliver on.

Also, half the board will be new in the new year, and though we truly thank the outgoing board members for their service, having them decide such an important matter and then leave just diminishes the accountability that has been so missing from this entire process. That those installed by the disgraced governor will decide on this backroom deal he imposed, and then walk away is not good governance.

I urge the Governor and LIPA Board to delay this vote and suspend this process. Wait until we have the answers we need and until a fully appointed new board can be held accountable for their own decision.

At best, there are many reasons not to move forward at all.

In the months after Tropical Storm Isaias, we saw tense and bitter exchanges as PSEG refused to negotiate with the LIPA Board's good faith demands. The LIPA board members expressed their fundamental mistrust of PSEG-LI management after learning how they lied about its preparedness for the tropical storm, its immediate response to it, and the number of upgrades it made afterwards. LIPA itself determined that management failures were the root cause and that PSEG-LI lacks proactive risk management.

LIPA can save nearly \$1 billion over the next decade through municipalization. Instead of paying bonuses to unaccountable managers and dividends to distant stockholders, LIPA could lower rates and improve service for customers by investing in resilient infrastructure and improving its crisis management system.

Additionally, though this contract on paper allows for more metrics for accountability, we wonder who on the board will actually go out of their way to fully enforce it when that has not been the case so far. With a provision for year's severance (on a 3 year contract) to PSEG LI

should they continue failing, which we doubt would be enforced, there is still no guarantee they would be a willing and cooperative participant in any transition away from them, ever. I see little difference in whether it happens sooner or later- they have done nothing to prove they will ever act to the contrary and the publicly attested inaccuracies and untruths have mounted past a breaking point. We cannot allow them to continue to hold our power over us- we need to take it back.

Decisions about the future of the Long Island Power Authority, its relationship to PSEG, and its responsibilities to Long Island and Rockaway ratepayers should belong to the ratepayers of this region, and the ratepayers of this region alone. Former Gov. Andrew Cuomo only had his legacy in mind when he pushed LIPA and PSEG to renew terms earlier in July and we do not wish to continue living under his failed policy.

We believe The LIPA Board and ultimately Governor Hochul have a responsibility to steer our course back towards public power.