

Name:

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Comment:

Long Island Needs A Public Power Utility

The decision to extend the public/private partnership with PSEG is an error.

Public power has several significant advantages over the current hybrid system. For one, there are no private stockholders. Dividends need not be added to the rate base, thus making public power more affordable. Lowering overall costs would also occur, if we avoided paying excessive bonuses to top executives of a private company.

Even more important is the reliability and security to the grid that public power is likely to bring. We need a robust system that will require new investments in equipment to assure continued reliability. Private companies focused on bottom-line profit may be less likely to undertake the required infrastructure necessary. A recent example is the ransomware attack on the Colonial Oil pipeline, that wreaked havoc on gasoline supplies. Absent were redundancies and alternative sources. Such dangers can be minimized with proper planning and investment.

In addition, we are facing a climate change catastrophe with continued use of fossil fuels. We need a rapid and accelerated move to greater conservation and cleaner alternative energy. We cannot leave the dramatic reduction of carbon to market forces alone.

A public power company is far more likely to make the required investments to achieve a sustainable and green Long Island.