

**Doyle, Dan**

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**From:** MacDonald, David  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2011 8:50 AM  
**To:** AfterIreneCT  
**Subject:** FW: my letter to Gov Malloy(CL&P Hurricane Irene)

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**From:** Neil Rathjen [mailto:neilrathjen@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 21, 2011 2:36 PM  
**To:** MacDonald, David  
**Subject:** my letter to Gov Malloy(CL&P Hurricane Irene)

Neil Rathjen

66 Possum Drive

New Fairfield, CT 06812

September 2, 2011

Honorable Daniel P. Malloy, Gov.

Office of the Governor

210 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT. 06106

Re: Hurricane Irene / CL & P

Dear Governor Malloy,

**“CL& P President and Chief Operating Officer Jeffrey Butler said that CL& P was still on schedule to restore all power by Wednesday, and to reduce the number of people without power to 100,000 by Saturday night.”**

9/23/2011

Well Governor, it's now **Friday**, 4:30 PM September 2, 2011 and 220,000 in CT. are still without Power according to local Connecticut news outlets. Some areas have not even been designated for repair as Linemen have received no info on these downed lines and trees to date while many citizens have had to risk their lives to cut through the debris In order to gain egress out of their subdivisions and allow for the entrance of emergency vehicles if required. **Haiti? Third World Nation? Hardly. It's Connecticut and CL & P's** lack of preparedness and desire to placate their shareholders by cutting costs and man power over the past decade to do so. They even strong-armed the **PUC** and **Governor Jody Rell** in 2007 into a 25% rate hike, *withdrawn*, only to be instituted less than a year later. <http://ccag.net/index.php?q=content/clp-scraps-bonus-request> even while we, the taxpayers, were still being charged for the dismantled nuclear power plant owned by CL & P. Now we are being surcharged for non-related electric service to aid in Connecticut's economic recovery and according to former Attorney Richard Blumenthal's office, "He advised against this move as it was most likely illegal. But as usual his advice was ignored by the Legislature.

It is pure hogwash that this storm is the worst ever. I have lived at the same address in New Fairfield going on 39 years and have seen many storms that were equal to or worse **regarding downed trees and power lines** and **CL & P crews worked day and night** to remedy outages. **Not so this time!** I drove all over New Fairfield starting at 10: PM and no CL & P activity for three days in a row. In fact there was no visible activity for 4 days along State Highway, Rt. # 37, in New Fairfield were there were two obvious afflictions even though the downed tress were all cleaned up off this State Hwy by Monday Noon. My community, Possum Ridge, was without electricity from Sunday, **7 AM** through Wednesday at **8:40 PM** due to **one** (1) downed, **TOTALLY VISIBLE and READILY ACCESSIBLE** line off Rt. 37 less than a block away from our community where there was **zero** flooding. To add insult to injury, not one live body was available at CL & P's **consumer hot line** to give confidence to callers that these issues were not only known but when they might be addressed. Just to be clear, I notified CL & P Sunday at 7:15 AM of the community outage via voice mail as once again no live body to talk to.

Bottom line: It is time for our **Governor, PUC and Legislators** to put CL & P on notice that they are not the only game in town.

In my view, If Mr. Butler is not capable of preparing his business for this **inevitable occurrence** in his industry and for the necessary manpower that will be required to stabilize electric delivery as well as for the necessary indemnity insurance to cover such events he should be fired along with the company itself. And here we have this same CEO stating, "**CL& P will work through its regulator, the state Department of Public Utility Control, to recover the costs**, Jeffrey Butler, the company's president and chief operating officer, said Wednesday." [http://articles.courant.com/2011-09-01/news/hc-irene-power-0901-20110831\\_1\\_utility-crews-cl-p-president-power](http://articles.courant.com/2011-09-01/news/hc-irene-power-0901-20110831_1_utility-crews-cl-p-president-power)

While Butler is penny pinching for his stock holders, **retirees** like me are out hundreds of dollars in food spoilage, in my case \$209.87 even though I spent over \$30 for ice to try and mitigate my food losses because of **one** downed, easily repaired, totally accessible, line. Keep in mind that much of this food was deliberately bought on sale for consumption at a later date and frozen to keep our food costs as low as possible. To replace same will now cost 5 to 15% more as food prices are rising as fast as political hot air. So not only were the meats and vegetables lost, so were the months of electric usage cost to freeze same.

**Connecticut's** electric rates stand at **19.3** second only to **Hawaii** at **27.83**. the **Highest in the Nation**

and this CEO who has self insured to increase Fridays afternoons bottom line for shareholders is crying about the cost to maintain his business from the inevitable. That's like smokers self insuring against the likely-hood of contracting lung cancer and telling the medical providers that they will have to pick up their medical cost because that self insurance money was used to buy beer.

**Enough is enough! The days of laying off costs and bailing out private industry on the backs of tax payers is over.** I implore you to Tell CL & P, a Service provider, to eat their cost of doing business. Hello! That includes storm damage occurrences or get out of the business as well as our state!

**I was one of the "silent" majority. Now I am in the increasing "vocal" minority and implore you to tell the PUC and CL & P "NO RATE INCREASE" now or for the next 5 years. In fact a rate decrease is a long overdue scenario for the homeowners and taxpayers of Connecticut who depend on CL & P for their delivery of electricity. Thanks for your time.**

Very concerned,

Neil Rathjen