

**Doyle, Dan**

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**From:** Liam Burke [liam06824@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 21, 2011 9:48 AM  
**To:** AfterIreneCT  
**Subject:** UI's plan of pulling in resources from neighboring states is insufficient

Dear Members of the Committee

I was lucky enough to have a line problem before the storm. About a week before Irene, it was very hot and the electric line to my office stopped working. We called UI, a guy came out quickly. It took him about 45 minutes to trace the problem back a few poles, he fixed it. The outage was just a few hours. Only one tenant complained.

With respect to Irene, I think the governments generally did a good job. They could learn and do even better, but they were pretty good.

UI management not so much.

The weather got better quickly, but no one saw any crews about.

I live in a town with a variety of terrains. Some parts of town are on a spit of sand in Long Island Sound and some are fairly woodsy with steep hills, etc. If people who live there are out of electricity for a while, that's somewhat understandable.

On the other hand, most of the Town is just suburban areas with connecting roads and fairly high density. There were huge areas of Fairfield with multiple ways to route the electricity and no downed trees, but there were no crews around for days. When we saw the crews, they worked hard, there just were not enough of them.

We had a preview of this with that big windstorm a few years back. Parts of Fairfield and Weston were without power then for a week. UI apparently learned nothing from that.

Five days after Irene passed through, there were crews from Kansas City, but that delay is not really acceptable. UI must have a plan other than trying to pull in crews from other states a business week later. That just does not work in a large outage. We need either to have some of the National Guard learn these skills and/or the utilities could arrange for local electricians who would like to learn these skills and be a part of a backup plan. Perhaps all the utilities nationally, could band together for some sort of emergency linemen program. I don't know. That's what the UI President gets the big bucks to not get done.

Thank-you.

William M. Burke

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