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September 28, 2022

## Via electronic mail only

Daniel Goldner, Chair New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301

**Re: Docket No. DE 22-043** – 022-2023 Electric Assistance Program Budgets Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy; Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.; Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty; and New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## Chair Goldner:

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy; Unitil Energy Systems, Inc.; Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty; and New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Joint Utilities") submit to the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") the following statement in support of the Department of Energy ("DOE") Commissioner Chicoine's recommendation issued yesterday recommending the Commission issue an expedited order approving the Electric Assistance Program ("EAP") budgets for the 2022-2023 program year.

By this letter, the Joint Utilities reiterate the concerns of the DOE. The EAP programs provide critical support for the provision of essential services to residents of New Hampshire with demonstrated need. With the hardship of the recent unprecedented increases to energy supply costs headed into the winter, the importance of the continued provision of this program without disruption cannot be overstated.

The Joint Utilities respectfully reiterate Commissioner Chicoine's assertion that no further process is needed on this matter. Given no party is contesting approval of the budgets, the Joint Utilities urge that this matter be resolved as soon as possible by Commission approval of the EAP budgets for the full 2022-2023 program year through Order *nisi* with an expedited final date of no later than October 1.

The Joint Utilities appreciate the Commission's prompt consideration of this matter. Consistent with current Commission policy this response is being filed electronically only; paper copies will not follow.

Regards

Jessica A. Chiavara Senior Counsel

o/b/o the Joint Utilities

cc: DE 22-043 service list