Name

Scott Carlin

Your Comment

My name is Scott Carlin; I am a resident of Hampton Bays and a LIPA customer. I am also a geographer at LIU Post, where I teach courses on regional environmental sustainability. The views below are my own.

The Long Island Power Authority's updated Options Analysis gives us the information we need to move to a fully municipal authority. PSEG promised significant improvements in customer satisfaction, yet it ranks poorly in recent regional surveys. It is time to adopt a new energy management model that allows for a faster pace of new investment and system-wide improvements. Compared with public power, public-private partnerships are less reliable, less accountable, and more expensive. We, the public, were promised the opposite. LIPA must move to full public power.

Across the country and on Long Island, publicly owned utilities have proven more affordable and reliable for residential customers. They are more responsive to customer needs, yielding better customer satisfaction. LIPA estimates it can save almost $1 billion this decade if it selects the public power option. We need these savings to transition the electric grid to 100% clean, renewable energy.

Long Island needs a democratic LIPA accountable to our communities. Public power shifts LIPA's operation, management, and policymaking to a democratically accountable model that will better ensure the public interest. Public power must also include:

- A formal partnership with a Long Island university-based "energy observatory" to conduct community engagement and research on clean energy, ratepayer protections, worker issues, and climate justice.
- The direct election of a new LIPA Board from ratepayers residing in separate districts within LIPA's service area.
- Proper oversight by the Public Service Commission; the model used throughout New York State.
- A revised LIPA mission that includes climate justice and participatory democracy, and it must codify LIPA's commitment to a new paradigm of energy management on Long Island.