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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING (EVENING SESSION) OF THE ENERGY
FACILITIES SITING BOARD, held remotely via Zoom, on
Monday, February 8, 2021, commencing at 6:01 p.m.

SITTING: Kathleen A. Theoharides, Chair
Matthew H. Nelson
Cecile M. Fraser
Patrick C. Woodcock
Gary Moran
Jonathan Cosco
Joseph Bonfiglio
Brian Casey

Andrew Greene, EFSB Director

-----Reporter: David Arsenault, RPR-----

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 330</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS - 6:01 p.m.</p> <p>2 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: I will call us back</p> <p>3 to order and note that Mr. Cosco is back with us for</p> <p>4 the record.</p> <p>5 MR. GREENE: Great.</p> <p>6 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: You said the first</p> <p>7 public commenter is here?</p> <p>8 MR. GREENE: Yes. She has entered the</p> <p>9 panel right now. There she is.</p> <p>10 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Ms. Owen, you may</p> <p>11 begin.</p> <p>12 MR. GREENE: Back on the record?</p> <p>13 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Yes.</p> <p>14 MR. GREENE: Is there a stenographer</p> <p>15 here?</p> <p>16 THE REPORTER: Yes.</p> <p>17 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Before we start, I</p> <p>18 will give these last-minute reminders. We are going</p> <p>19 to call on members of the public to comment in the</p> <p>20 order in which the preregistered. Given the number</p> <p>21 of commenters that have requested to speak, we will</p> <p>22 be asking people to keep comments to approximately</p> <p>23 three minutes each. Please raise your hand using</p> <p>24 the raise hand icon. We will find you and place you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 332</p> <p>1 To do otherwise is a violation of environmental</p> <p>2 principles and an affront to the residents who live</p> <p>3 in the communities surrounding the proposed</p> <p>4 substation.</p> <p>5 The 2017 environmental justice policy</p> <p>6 defines environmental justice as, quote, "equal</p> <p>7 protection and meaningful involvement of all people</p> <p>8 and communities with respect to the development,</p> <p>9 implementation and enforcement of energy, climate</p> <p>10 change, and environmental laws, regulations and</p> <p>11 policies, and the equitable distribution of energy</p> <p>12 and environmental benefits and burdens," unquote.</p> <p>13 In an environmentally just society all</p> <p>14 people have a right to be protected from</p> <p>15 environmental pollution and to live, learn, work,</p> <p>16 play, and pray in and enjoy a clean and healthy</p> <p>17 environment regardless of their race, income,</p> <p>18 national origin, or English language proficiency.</p> <p>19 At present we do not live in such a</p> <p>20 society. People of color in Massachusetts have a 70</p> <p>21 percent chance of living in one of the most</p> <p>22 contaminated communities in the state. For white</p> <p>23 residents that chance is a mere 1.9 percent.</p> <p>24 The proposed substation site follows</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 331</p> <p>1 in the virtual podium to speak. If you can state</p> <p>2 and spell your name for the stenographer before your</p> <p>3 comments, please.</p> <p>4 Thank you, Ms. Owen.</p> <p>5 MS. OWEN: Madam Chair, my name is</p> <p>6 Sofia Owen, S o f i a is the first name, and O w e n</p> <p>7 is the last name. My residential address is 351</p> <p>8 South Huntington Avenue, Apartment 3 in Boston,</p> <p>9 02130.</p> <p>10 As I said, my name is Sofia Owen. I'm</p> <p>11 the staff attorney and the director for</p> <p>12 Environmental Justice Legal Services and</p> <p>13 Alternatives for Community and Environment, or ACE,</p> <p>14 in Roxbury, Massachusetts. For over 25 years ACE</p> <p>15 has built the power of communities of color and</p> <p>16 low-income communities in Massachusetts to eradicate</p> <p>17 environmental racism and classism to creat healthy</p> <p>18 and sustainable communities and to achieve</p> <p>19 environmental justice.</p> <p>20 I'm here tonight in solidarity with</p> <p>21 GreenRoots and the residents of East Boston to</p> <p>22 request that the EFSB reject the tentative decision</p> <p>23 and reopen for consideration all aspects of this</p> <p>24 project, including whether it is necessary at all.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 333</p> <p>1 this pattern. Its location in a floodplain next to</p> <p>2 a playground in an environmental-justice community</p> <p>3 puts residents already living with the health and</p> <p>4 environmental impacts caused by their proximity to</p> <p>5 over of 8 million gallons of jet fuel at even</p> <p>6 greater risk. This is environmental racism and</p> <p>7 fundamentally unjust.</p> <p>8 It's not only the direct impact of</p> <p>9 pollution and climate change that are at issue here.</p> <p>10 As GreenRoots, Conservation Law Foundation, and</p> <p>11 other commenters have made clear, residents have</p> <p>12 been denied full access to the very processes that</p> <p>13 are meant to facilitate community engagement and</p> <p>14 participation.</p> <p>15 In fact, there are two outstanding Title</p> <p>16 VI civil rights complaints about this project filed</p> <p>17 with federal agencies that are unresolved in</p> <p>18 addition to an ongoing EPA-launched civil rights</p> <p>19 compliance review of EEA and its agencies.</p> <p>20 TRANSLATOR REP: Excuse me one second.</p> <p>21 We need to be a little slower for the translator.</p> <p>22 It is not just a matter of speed. Take a breath</p> <p>23 between sentences.</p> <p>24 MS. OWEN: It is not -- to make a</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 334</p> <p>1 decision now, when litigation on this process is 2 still pending is premature. Environmental racism 3 can be defined as any policy, practice, or directive 4 that differentially affects or disadvantages, 5 whether intended or unintended, individuals, groups 6 or communities based on race or color. 7 Environmental racism combines with public policies 8 and industry practices to provide benefits for 9 whites while shifting costs to people of color. 10 The fact that the siting process has 11 been allowed to continue despite pending litigation, 12 questions the fact of whether the substation is in 13 fact necessary. And residents dealing with some of 14 the highest COVID-19 infection rates in the state as 15 well as unemployment, evictions, homelessness and 16 food insecurity is an example of one such policy 17 decision. It sends the message that community 18 members have to choose between the needs of their 19 families and the health of the environment and the 20 public health of their community. 21 I do not doubt the integrity of the 22 members and staff of the EFSB, but I question 23 whether we would even be here if the substation had 24 been proposed in a community like Newton or Back</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 336</p> <p>1 still think that just based on these things I'm 2 about to talk about, the project change should be 3 rejected by the EFSB. 4 The first item, which I also mentioned 5 in my December 3rd comments, was that the new 6 substation notes the same, the project change though 7 it is the same capacity as the initial project 8 substation is about 70 percent larger. It is a 9 significant increase in square footage, which is 10 really taking additional land from the public realm 11 given that it was originally a city site. 12 Regardless of whether that space would become a park 13 or some other green space as was initially proposed 14 for the site plan that included a police station, it 15 is still city land which would presumably extend 16 other benefits to people of the neighborhood based 17 on the police station subsite or whatever. 18 So the initial site was smaller and took 19 less space from the city. Which I think was also a 20 little bit of a tone deaf project change on 21 Eversource's part because the community was already 22 saying that we are not interested in the substation 23 in the first place, and then to move it and also 24 expand the size by 70 percent while moving it closer</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 335</p> <p>1 Bay. A process that does not center the needs of 2 the most vulnerable people in the community is not 3 environmentally just. 4 Thank you for the opportunity to speak 5 tonight. In closing, I ask you to reject the 6 tentative decision and reopen consideration of all 7 aspects of this project. 8 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you, Ms. Owen. 9 MR. GREENE: We have are Erik Burkman on 10 the panel, and he is a limited participant and has 11 requested to speak. 12 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. Go 13 ahead. 14 MR. BURKMAN: Sorry, hi. I have my 15 notes on my other computer screen so I will look 16 like I am gazing into the distance, but I assure you 17 that I am looking at you. 18 I had written some comments for December 19 3rd. I know that there's a lot of questions about, 20 or everybody is asking for the whole thing to be 21 reopened, which I agree with. However, I also know 22 that today the tentative decision is really focused 23 on the project change specifically and it narrows 24 kind of what the EFSB can consider. However, I</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 337</p> <p>1 to a playground feels a little bit punitive. 2 There have been inaccuracies regarding 3 the project change throughout this, including one 4 that was recently recognized by Eversource in 5 response to this letter that it was not actually 6 moving a hundred feet as was initially stated, but 7 closer to 300 feet when you measure on the same side 8 of the site. I understand the new site is actually 9 more expensive to ratepayers, which we are, as 10 compared to the original site. 11 And then from an urban design 12 perspective, I think this is really a terrible 13 project change because the new site blocks the 14 parcel, blocks the remainder of the parcel from some 15 other use that it could be used for the neighborhood 16 or for whatever. The position on Condor Street 17 essentially makes the rest of the parcel 18 inaccessible to some other use, green use or 19 whatever. 20 Finally -- not finally, but the lack of 21 consideration for specific uses for abutting 22 parcels, though there were consideration for things 23 like air-quality and number of parcels that were 24 abutting the new site identified in the project</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 338</p> <p>1 change, but the lack of consideration for the uses 2 of those parcels I think is a real fatal flaw in 3 this analysis that if I were on the EFSB I would 4 reject the project change based on that alone. 5 You can't really say that the buffer, 6 there's 12 parcels within the buffer. The original 7 site, because they are industrial parcels and there 8 are residences which are important, but several 9 people in a residence, and then count the playground 10 as one parcel putting it on similar ground to an 11 industrial site or a residence whether there's three 12 people who are living there, or whatever. Because 13 the playground really extends to many more people 14 even though it represents just one parcel. 15 I heard the representative from Keegan 16 Werlin for Eversource mention electromagnetic 17 disruption, that there's not any real knowledge on 18 whether that would disrupt the police equipment. 19 However, one of the stated reasons for moving the 20 site from next to the Channel Fish Company was so 21 that the electromagnetic radiation would disrupt 22 their fish-processing equipment. 23 So my question, I guess, is if we 24 accepted that as a reason for moving away from</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 340</p> <p>1 four on \$52,000 for your household. 2 It is amazing to me that even if you set 3 aside all of our arguments, which I think are valid 4 arguments for whether the substation needs to be 5 here in the first place, I think from an unobjective 6 perspective even from an urban design perspective 7 the project change just doesn't make any sense. It 8 is tucked away next to an industrial site or it is 9 directly next to a playground blocking off the 10 remainder of a public parcel from any future higher 11 use. 12 TRANSLATOR REP: We need it slightly 13 slower for the interpreter. Thank you. 14 MR. BURKMAN: Sorry. I think that is 15 pretty much all I was going to say. 16 I think I didn't spell my name for the 17 stenographer either. It is Erik Burkman, E r i k, B 18 u r k m a n, at 294 Lexington Street. 19 I think the EFSB should deny the project 20 change for many reasons most of which are outlined 21 in my December 3rd letter. Thank you. 22 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 23 Mr. Greene, do we have another limited 24 participant as well?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 339</p> <p>1 Channel Fish, then why is it not also a reason for 2 avoiding if being placed next to the police station? 3 Then I think the perceived conflict of 4 interest and undue influence, the appearance of 5 undue influence between EFSB, the city, Eversource 6 and the Channel Fish Company related to this project 7 change I think raises some real questions 8 particularly regarding the timeline on which the 9 project change was filed and the real estate parcel 10 swaps between the city and Eversource. 11 Conflict of interest laws is not so much 12 whether there is a conflict of interest but rather a 13 perception of a conflict of interest which erodes 14 the public trust in this process. And I think that 15 is a real issue that has not been addressed. 16 This is all sort of in addition to the 17 environmental-justice consideration. So for 18 example, this community is 78 percent minority, 54 19 percent limited English proficiency. 38 percent of 20 our community is under twice the poverty level, 21 which is \$52,000 for a family of four. I'm sure 22 that all of the EFSB staff that are here are making 23 more than \$52,000 a year. You can probably imagine 24 living in this community and supporting a family of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 341</p> <p>1 MR. GREENE: Mr. Aponte, who is also in 2 the panel. 3 MR. APONTE: Thank you. My name is Joe 4 Aponte, J o e, A p o n t e. I live at 294 5 Lexington. 6 When I first became engaged in the 7 proceeding surrounding the project, folks involved, 8 defeated after being let down by the Commonwealth 9 time and time again, said that the Energy Facilities 10 Siting Board is just a rubber-stamp organization and 11 that they would let us down just like everyone else 12 has. They said never has the EFSB denied a 13 utilities project and we shouldn't get our hopes up 14 that they would this time around. I told them that 15 they were wrong. Anyone with half a brain can see 16 the problems that this project presents. I won't 17 speak to the fact that this proposed site is in a 18 flood zone. 19 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Just slow down a 20 little bit, Mr. Aponte, please. Thank you. 21 MR. APONTE: Anyone with half a brain 22 can see the problems that this project presents. I 23 won't speak much to the fact that this proposed site 24 is in a flood zone and is directly abutting millions</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 342</p> <p>1 of gallons of jet fuel and a police station. My 2 neighbors have and will continue to touch on that. 3 Instead I'd like to speak about the ethical 4 concerns. 5 The first time I delivered comments on 6 this project everyone present noticed you all, the 7 Siting Board, situated between two Eversource logos 8 on the stage at East High School. Commenters, 9 including Councilor Lydia Edwards, noted the faux 10 pas, but nothing was done about it until I stood up 11 and refused to speak until the logos were taken 12 down. Regardless of intentions, I needed you to 13 notice the optics of the situation. 14 In other instances, meetings in a 15 predominantly Spanish-speaking, environmental- 16 justice community were conducted without 17 interpretation for Eastie residents who are 18 predominantly Spanish speakers. You, Secretary 19 Theoharides, even at the last meeting on December 16 20 commented that the site move was approximately 200 21 feet. That's your quote. In reality it's closer to 22 400 feet. This was pointed out in the amendments to 23 the tentative decision that were sent out before the 24 hearing started on December 15th. Representing</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 344</p> <p>1 It really makes me wonder if this was a 2 calculated effort in an attempt to trim the 3 attendance at these meetings. If that's the case, 4 it is reprehensible and each of you should be 5 ashamed of yourselves. 6 I was able to join the hearing today at 7 6:00 p.m. five hours after it began because I work 8 more than full-time and I couldn't step away until 9 6:00 p.m. Comments are supposed to resume tomorrow 10 at 9:00 a.m. Can you tell me how the average 11 community member who works standard business hours 12 is supposed to be able to earnestly participate? 13 Can you tell me how these marathon hearings that 14 give folks the option to speak but not the tools to 15 be able to do so are in the spirit of community 16 engagement? 17 When folks told me that the EFSB was 18 simply a rubber-stamping agency, I told them they 19 were mistaken. Don't prove me wrong. Reconsider. 20 Consider our comments critically, and deny this 21 tentative decision. You are our last hope and we 22 are relying on you to do the right thing. 23 Keeping in mind the proposed 24 substation's proximity to the Urban Wild and the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 343</p> <p>1 otherwise is highly unethical. 2 A large percentage of the energy load is 3 needed by Boston Logan Airport. That's why the 4 closing of the Logan Airport hypothetical that was 5 spoken and was discussed in such detail on December 6 16th. If the airport substation substantiates such 7 a need, site the substation there instead of in our 8 backyards. 9 We'll hear more tonight, I'm sure, about 10 back-room, underhanded dealings between Channel Fish 11 Company, the City of Boston and Eversource. I'll 12 simply add that Eversource has yet to provide any 13 emergency plans should the substation explode and 14 cause damage to the Logan Airport fuel tanks and 15 incapacitate the new BPD station. I would ask 16 repeatedly. 17 As participants should have been 18 preparing for the December 16th storm, grocery 19 shopping, taking out our shovels, and preparing our 20 properties for the incoming storm, we had to make 21 the tough decision to forgo these activities for our 22 safety and instead sit in a five-hour meeting just 23 in case we were called to speak that night. Spoiler 24 alert: We weren't.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 345</p> <p>1 American Legion Playground, I'll leave you with one 2 statement from Eversource themselves in response to 3 a near fatal accident sustained by a 15 year-old 4 child too close to the substation in 2018. Quote, 5 "We cannot emphasize strongly enough that high- 6 voltage power lines and electrical substations can 7 be hazardous, which is why we implore everyone to 8 stay away from them." Again, that's from 9 Eversource. Thank you. 10 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 11 Ms. Ivy? 12 MS. IVY: Yes, thank you so much. I am 13 a resident of 296 Lexington Street, which is very 14 close proximity to the proposed substation. I also 15 am professor, an executive professor of strategy and 16 right now, as you see, I am getting ready for my 17 next class for MBA. 18 It is interesting that this week the 19 (inaudible) investigation. We talk about the 20 stakeholder relationship, stakeholder is part of 21 corporate and civility. I cannot help myself by 22 giving example again and again to my classroom 23 because it is a textbook example. When we have 24 powerful stakeholder, which is Eversource with all</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 346</p> <p>1 the money, and we have us, the people which are so 2 often forgotten. Even in my last semester I used 3 Russia, Ukraine, the countries where I am from, as 4 an example of how easy to kind of neglect normal 5 stakeholders, but now I don't need Russia, Ukraine 6 because we have Eversource right here. And the 7 whole process with how this was dealt is more 8 surprise for me as an immigrant than even upset. I 9 just cannot believe that in the United States of 10 America, the country of my dreams, the country which 11 I'm proud to be a citizen of, so easily opinion of 12 regular people can be ignored just because a big 13 company wants to put their stuff here. And two 14 businesses, Fish Channel and Eversource, kind of 15 found their way to talk with the City of Boston. 16 But what about us? What about us? So I understand 17 how difficult it is for you guys. I understand how 18 difficult is your job to deny the request of 19 stakeholders. But in (inaudible) like yours, the 20 request and pain of more stakeholders, stakeholders 21 who don't have power but we have spent our life 22 here. I live right here. Our stakes must be 23 considered higher than the stakes of those 24 (inaudible). Thank you very much.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 348</p> <p>1 the community that is most affected by this project, 2 and on a weekday when many interested parties have 3 to work, this is just piling on the injustice. 4 As we have all heard, East Boston is 5 already overburdened with industrial infrastructure, 6 jet fuel tanks, road salt, a major highway, and the 7 airport. And not once in two years of attending 8 these hearings have I heard a resident speak up and 9 saying they are in favor of siting the substation in 10 their neighborhood, and that it is a good thing 11 Eversource is building. 12 As previous speakers have pointed out, 13 Eversource has failed to publicly demonstrate the 14 ongoing need of the substation to the public. The 15 data that Eversource placed into the public filings 16 is redacted, and the projected development being 17 cited to justify the need have already been built 18 and there have been no issues of reliability, which 19 at the least introduces some doubt about whether the 20 substation is urgently needed. 21 And as testified by GreenRoots and CLF, 22 the public with limited English proficiency were not 23 adequately included in earlier hearings deciding for 24 the need for the substation before the project</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 347</p> <p>1 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you very much. 2 Mr. Greene, are we moving back to public 3 comment now? 4 MR. GREENE: Yes, we are. I am looking 5 down the list to see who the next person is who is 6 actually with us. If you can raise your hand when I 7 call your name that will help us. 8 Natasha Finnerty? 9 Karry Muzzey? Somebody just raised a 10 hand. 11 MS. MUZZEY: My name is Karry Muzzey. 12 Karry, K a r r y, last name Muzzey, M u z z e y. 13 And I live at 251 Heath Street in Boston. 14 And I'm here in solidarity with 15 GreenRoots and the East Boston community because I, 16 like many others, care about environmental justice. 17 And when I consider the process that has taken place 18 to move this substation forward, the word I think of 19 most often is injustice. 20 From the beginning of this hearing 21 process when East Boston residents were provided 22 inadequate translation services to this hearing 23 taking place on Zoom for seven hours in the middle 24 of a pandemic that is disproportionately affecting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 349</p> <p>1 change. I agree with Ms. Owen that any litigation 2 should be resolved before going forward. 3 And at this point after more than five 4 years have passed and after hearing the testimony of 5 Ms. Lints (phonetic) many of us would agree that the 6 question of need clearly needs to be reopened. 7 Based on the comments made by the Board at the 8 December hearing, if there wasn't so much worry 9 about setting a precedent that might move us toward 10 a more Democratic hearing process, or worry about 11 not following the prescribed and the predetermined 12 procedure, I wonder if there would be more 13 willingness to reconsider that essential component: 14 Need. 15 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. We may 16 need to move on if you can just wrap up. 17 MS. MUZZEY: The EFSB has a duty to 18 provide a space for meaningful participation. And 19 to me meaningful participation means that the public 20 is able to fully understand the proceedings, voice 21 their concerns, and to be assured that their 22 concerns are being considered by the board of 23 decision-makers and the concerns specifically about 24 need is critical for approval of this project and</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 350</p> <p>1 the public deserves for it to be addressed fully in 2 a transparent manner and not for it to be dismissed 3 simply because it would set a precedent and may 4 create more work for the company and the Board. 5 For Eversource, this project is an 6 investment. Because of the DPU's process they are 7 virtually guaranteed to see a return on that 8 investment. For the community, this project is a 9 liability and a burden and the costs for it will 10 come out of their pockets. I think if this process 11 truly had integrity it would reject the tentative 12 decision and reopen the question of need. 13 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 14 Mr. Greene? 15 MR. GREENE: The next speaker is Nafis 16 Hasan, who is in the panel. Mr. Hassan are you 17 here? Can you unmute your microphone? He was here. 18 Moving in now. Mr. Hasan could you please join us 19 and unmute your microphone. 20 MR. HASAN: Thank you. 21 Thank you, Madam Chair and Mr. Greene 22 for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is 23 Nafis Hasan, N a f i s, H a s a n. And I'm a 24 resident of Jamaica Plain in Boston. Before I begin</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 352</p> <p>1 reprieve, and also allowing this debt to build up 2 without any meaningful plan by the investor 3 utilities to help the customers pay back this debt. 4 The customers will be forced to pay this debt or 5 face shutoffs starting in April. 6 Additionally, 874,327 residential 7 customers are in arrears. Only 18,428 have a path 8 to debt forgiveness through the area arrearage 9 management plan. While the number of Eversource's 10 residential customers in arrears haven't changed 11 significantly, there's a huge drop in the number of 12 customers on the repayment plans, especially in the 13 low-income bracket, many of whom live in the East 14 Boston area, or many of East Boston residents belong 15 to that bracket. 16 Considering that Eversource already won 17 a rate hike set to begin in November 2021 on their 18 Massachusetts Attorney General settlement deal with 19 Columbia Gas and Eversource, this will only result 20 in bleeding the working-class people dry and people 21 who constitute a large portion of Eastie and who 22 will be paying for the \$50 million substation with 23 Eversource's reaping profits. In fact, I 24 wholeheartedly agree with Mass. AGO that all new</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 351</p> <p>1 I would like to acknowledge that I'm speaking to you 2 from territory (inaudible) of the Massachusetts. 3 Today I am here to speak as a concerned 4 resident of the Commonwealth and as organizer with 5 the Boston Chapter of Democratic Socialists of 6 America to voice my concern and opposition to 7 Eversource for the proposed substation in East 8 Boston. 9 I would like to echo what others have 10 said regarding the question of need, that is that it 11 is unjustified, and the rushed manner in this which 12 this hearing is being held despite ongoing Title VI 13 complaints and civil rights lawsuits. I would also 14 like to note the dire situation that East Boston 15 residents are particularly in. 16 An October 2020 report by the Metro Area 17 Planning Commission identified more than 80,000 18 renters, owner households face the risk of eviction 19 in Boston. According to the Department of Public 20 Utilities public docket number 20-58, as of December 21 2020 one in five utility customers face utility debt 22 with the average low-income account owing \$645 on 23 their gas bill and \$1,377 on the electric bill. The 24 utilities should have a moratorium allowing for some</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 353</p> <p>1 infrastructure development by utilities should be 2 paused if they are to recuperate COVID-19-related 3 costs as outlined in the DPU public docket number 4 20-91. 5 I urge the Board to seriously consider 6 the ravaging effects that the pandemic has had and 7 continues to have on the East Boston community 8 before imposing a great environmental as well 9 financial burden on the residents of the area. 10 Before you approve the substation, I ask you to 11 consider the historical injustices brought upon this 12 community by the city and the state. If you want to 13 perpetuate those further, allowing the substation is 14 a clear violation of environmental justice. For all 15 the lip service about environmental injustice by 16 this administration, it has failed to live up to the 17 lowest expectations of enacting it. 18 I hope you will consider matching your 19 actions with words when rejecting Eversource's 20 proposal and reopening the question of need of the 21 substation. Thank you. 22 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 23 MR. GREENE: Our next speaker is 24 Jennifer Stevenson, who is in the panel.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 354</p> <p>1 MS. STEVENSON ZEPEDA: My name is Jen 2 Stevenson Zepeda, J e n S t e v e n s o n, Z e p e d 3 a. My address is 7 Joseph Street, Somerville. 4 I am the associate director of Climable 5 and we are a Cambridge-based and woman-run nonprofit 6 that works on the technical translation of energy 7 and environmental issues to engage more people on 8 these important topics. Thank you for giving me a 9 moment to provide feedback. 10 The concerns I have fall into two main 11 buckets. The first is equity and the second is 12 need. East Boston already shoulders a 13 disproportionate amount of environmental and 14 industrial burden, and it is designated as an EJ 15 community. I do not believe we should add to that 16 burden by building yet another piece of 17 infrastructure in the neighborhood, especially when 18 it would be sited so closely to a park. 19 If you listen to the people here today 20 and at the December hearing that I was attending, I 21 don't hear any public support of this project. If 22 public engagement is truly an important part of the 23 process, then we need not to just pay lip service by 24 having these meetings but actually really listen to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 356</p> <p>1 proposed work is truly necessary. To do this 2 fairly, all stakeholders need the same data that 3 Eversource has. 4 Lastly, I personally believe that it is 5 critical that everyone, citizens, corporations and 6 municipalities, do everything within their power to 7 expedite the transition to clean energy as a way to 8 counteract climate change. If the Union of 9 Concerned Scientists study shows that the energy 10 needs in this pocket can be met with solar and 11 storage and provide it more cost effectively than a 12 substation, I would think that it is the EFSB's 13 responsibility to consider it a viable alternative. 14 I'm not sure who can reopen the question 15 of need on the docket. I don't know if it is only 16 Secretary Theoharides or if it is everyone on the 17 EFSB or a certain number of members. But regardless 18 and precedent aside, I would like to request that 19 you reopen the question of need and take into 20 account the questions of equity and justice that I 21 and so many others have mentioned throughout the 22 process, including today. Thank you. 23 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 24 MR. GREENE: Next up is Claire Miller.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 355</p> <p>1 what people are saying and take what they say into 2 account in making these siting decisions. 3 Policy and decisions by this EFSB can 4 only benefit by listening to the communities most 5 affected by environmental impacts since they are the 6 ones that know better than anyone the nuances of the 7 challenges and the solutions they can help address 8 them. 9 Massachusetts can do more in working 10 toward environmental justice. This project sited in 11 an EJ community is an opportunity for Massachusetts 12 to show the rest of the country how seriously we 13 take these questions of equity. 14 My second concern is about need. I'm 15 not sure if there is a need for this project, but 16 that's because there's a lack of transparency and 17 access to the data that would allow third parties to 18 assess need is not available. It is my 19 understanding that the data that the utility used to 20 establish need is now over five years old, and that 21 demand has been consistently below ISO forecasts in 22 the last ten years. It seems only fair that we do 23 due diligence when we talk about projects that 24 ratepayers will pay for to make sure that the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 357</p> <p>1 SPEAKER MILLER: Thank you. 2 Good evening. My name is Claire Miller. 3 I use they/them pronouns, and I am the movement 4 building director for Unitarian Universalist Mass 5 Action. Our mission is to mobilize and organize 6 (inaudible) you use to confront oppression by 7 centering the leadership of those who are most 8 impacted by forms of oppression and injustice, 9 including environmental injustice. 10 Today I speak in opposition to this 11 project. I ask that the EFSB reject the tentative 12 decision, and I want to make three quick points. 13 Number one is that Unitarian 14 Universalists believe in justice, equity and 15 compassion in all human relations. For UUMASS 16 Action this is not just an idea or words that we 17 say, but it is how we live in action. I am 18 dismayed, disheartened, disillusioned that we don't 19 even know if the substation is actually needed. 20 Eversource says yes. Other experts and data, data 21 we can't see say no. There has to be a transparent 22 analysis of the need for this project based on 23 current data. It is ethical and moral that that 24 happen.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 358</p> <p>1 Unitarian Universalists also have a deep 2 respect for the interdependent web of all existence 3 of which we are a part. White privilege, class 4 privilege may segregate me, may insulate me from 5 physically feeling the impacts of this proposal but 6 I know that we are all connected. I would have 7 hoped that under the pandemic perhaps the truth of 8 how the wellness of each of us is wrapped up in the 9 wellness of our neighbor would have made this more 10 clear.</p> <p>11 In a more practical sense, I know that 12 the environmental justice executive order was signed 13 in the previous administration. It is not new. The 14 EFSB should not have to be asked to give language 15 access. The whole point of that executive order or 16 at least part of its core purpose was that the EFSB 17 should have done it proactively.</p> <p>18 We are in urgent times and we do not 19 have time to build things that will be useless in 20 short order, especially when we are sacrificing 21 those who are already hit. I urge Eversource to 22 find a more appropriate location if this is truly 23 needed than a residential neighborhood next to a 24 playground in a flood zone.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 360</p> <p>1 disrespectful to me and to everybody else here who 2 has wanted to give a comment. I've been able to sit 3 here and listen for the nearly six hours because I'm 4 an advocate at the Sierra Club and my job allows me 5 to do this. But as we have heard many times 6 throughout the course of today, many of the affected 7 community members directly living in East Boston 8 adjacent to this project are unable to be here as 9 are many others who would have wanted to give their 10 comments who are working daytime jobs and have other 11 limitations.</p> <p>12 We know that this is intentional from 13 this Board and from the administration and it is 14 classic illusion of inclusion where you will say 15 yes, we will give you the opportunity to give a 16 public comment but only if you sign up in the proper 17 time window in advance with the right person and 18 then wait for now eleven hours between the two 19 hearings to just sit here and listen to you all talk 20 without having any opportunity to engage.</p> <p>21 This is again, not what you can 22 constitute to be a public hearing when the public 23 actually have been muted, unable to ask any 24 questions throughout the entire process, and unable</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 359</p> <p>1 Again, I ask the EFSB to reject the 2 proposal, reopen the case, please listen to the 3 community. Thank you.</p> <p>4 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. GREENE: Next is Michele Brooks.</p> <p>6 MS. BROOKS: Can you hear me? Great.</p> <p>7 Good evening. Thank you to the Board 8 for this opportunity. My name is Michele Brooks. 9 I'm a resident of Boston and a community organizer 10 at the Massachusetts Sierra Club. I'm here today to 11 speak in solidarity with GreenRoots and the East 12 Boston community on behalf of our roughly 130,000 13 members and supporters in the Commonwealth in 14 demanding that you reject the premature and 15 irresponsible tentative approval of this project 16 that was granted and reopen the question of need for 17 the infrastructure.</p> <p>18 Just speaking from the heart, having sat 19 on this call for almost six hours now and the 20 previous hearing for four hours back in December, 21 expecting people who want to give a comment and 22 express their opposition to the project to wait for 23 cumulatively eleven hours now for these two hearings 24 and then being limited to two or three minutes is</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 361</p> <p>1 to see who else is in the room. I see that I'm now 2 getting the 30-second reminder; again after waiting 3 eleven hours to speak, you limit us to two or three 4 minutes. It is unfathomable to me.</p> <p>5 But I come back to what GreenRoots has 6 made perfectly clear, show us the data, Eversource, 7 give us the justification for this ludicrous project 8 to which I believe that there is none. And it is 9 clear that no one in the community wants this. East 10 Boston being an environmental-justice community, as 11 we have heard again from many other people, is 12 bearing a disproportionate amount of industrial 13 pollution for the region and from the airport. This 14 community is continuing to be treated like a 15 sacrifice zone.</p> <p>16 This is environmental racism, plain and 17 simple, and it is unacceptable. And the 18 administration cannot even pretend to care about 19 environmental justice when you continue to move 20 forward with projects like this. Having been what, 21 almost five, almost ten years now of the community 22 fighting this.</p> <p>23 So again, I would urge you to reject the 24 tentative approval of this project and reopen the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 362</p> <p>1 question of need. Thank you.</p> <p>2 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. GREENE: Next we have Cindy Luppi</p> <p>4 from Clean Water Action.</p> <p>5 MS. LUPPI: Thank you and good evening.</p> <p>6 My name is Cynthia Luppi, C y n t h i a</p> <p>7 L u p p i. I live at 161 Quincy Ave. in Winthrop.</p> <p>8 I'm the New England director for Clean Water Action.</p> <p>9 I speak here on behalf of our over 30,000</p> <p>10 Massachusetts members to raise serious concerns</p> <p>11 about the Eversource substation proposed for East</p> <p>12 Boston.</p> <p>13 More personally, I also speak as a</p> <p>14 neighbor living in Winthrop with significant</p> <p>15 questions about area impacts in light of the heavy</p> <p>16 burdens already placed on residents of East Boston</p> <p>17 and Chelsea. As a neighbor I know firsthand how</p> <p>18 COVID-19 is devastating these neighborhoods and</p> <p>19 adding to the complexity of conditions on the ground</p> <p>20 that are mired in systemic racism.</p> <p>21 Most urgently, I share our opposition to</p> <p>22 the proposed siting of the project based on the</p> <p>23 imperative of environmental-justice principles, as</p> <p>24 you have heard from many others over the course of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 364</p> <p>1 The issue of alternatives to a proposal</p> <p>2 is in our opinion the single most important question</p> <p>3 before you as a deliberative body. This is the</p> <p>4 heart of the matter. If a current need is</p> <p>5 identified, and as you have heard there are some</p> <p>6 deep questions and a good amount of community</p> <p>7 skepticism about this, can it be met by a less</p> <p>8 burdensome approach? We have heard about the study</p> <p>9 by the Union of Concerned Scientists that points to</p> <p>10 clean tech alternatives to a substation. We have</p> <p>11 also heard about alternative project locations at</p> <p>12 Logan Airport that would also reduce community</p> <p>13 impacts and center the project where there is more</p> <p>14 of a potential need.</p> <p>15 We submit that it is part of your due</p> <p>16 diligence, given the weight of environmental-justice</p> <p>17 questions before you, to reject the project change</p> <p>18 before you and move forward with thorough</p> <p>19 environmental alternatives assessment.</p> <p>20 I understand that these are not easy</p> <p>21 issues and that this is a hard hearing for all</p> <p>22 involved. So I want to thank you for this</p> <p>23 opportunity to share our remarks and hope that you</p> <p>24 are hearing deeply from the community, the scope and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 363</p> <p>1 these proceedings.</p> <p>2 The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has</p> <p>3 affirmed and reaffirmed its commitments to these</p> <p>4 principles particularly in the weeks since the</p> <p>5 murder of George Floyd when our nation has continued</p> <p>6 to grapple with the terrible aspects of racism</p> <p>7 across the board. Given the cumulative weight of</p> <p>8 existing burdens of an environmental-justice</p> <p>9 hotspot, including Logan Airport and the tanks of</p> <p>10 jet fuel, as others have mentioned, among other</p> <p>11 things, we seriously question the siting of any</p> <p>12 facility of this sort that would pose additional</p> <p>13 health and safety concerns.</p> <p>14 For the record, we do not agree with the</p> <p>15 staff assessment that the additive impacts from this</p> <p>16 facility would be minor, particularly in light of</p> <p>17 the potential for catastrophic accidents or fires.</p> <p>18 Frankly, this question of potential fires should not</p> <p>19 be brushed over. As a neighbor in the general area,</p> <p>20 it is enough to keep one up at night, let alone the</p> <p>21 folks that live directly adjacent to the proposed</p> <p>22 site. For this reason we believe that a more</p> <p>23 thorough assessment of safer alternatives is the</p> <p>24 only just course of action before you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 365</p> <p>1 the level and the depth of our concerns. Thank you.</p> <p>2 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. GREENE: Next is Mary Vance.</p> <p>4 MS. VANCE: Hi. My name is Mary Vance,</p> <p>5 M a r y, last name V a n c e, and I live at 145</p> <p>6 Princeton Street in East Boston.</p> <p>7 I'm extremely concerned about the safety</p> <p>8 of the residents of this community. Not only are</p> <p>9 the projects that Eversource originally listed to</p> <p>10 justify the need for this substation functioning</p> <p>11 fine without it, but it endangers the lives of</p> <p>12 everyone in my neighborhood. At one of the previous</p> <p>13 community meetings regarding this project in 2019 we</p> <p>14 were told that Eversource does not have an emergency</p> <p>15 evacuation plan should the substation explode or</p> <p>16 catch fire, which are very real possibilities</p> <p>17 considering its placement at the intersection of a</p> <p>18 known flood zone and an 8-million-gallon tank of jet</p> <p>19 fuel.</p> <p>20 Your response to our questions is that</p> <p>21 we should rely on the already overburdened Boston</p> <p>22 emergency services. Over 55,000 people call East</p> <p>23 Boston home and an additional 45,000 in Chelsea.</p> <p>24 How do you propose we evacuate from this island?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 366</p> <p>1 Even if you don't care about preventing possible 2 death, injury and forced relocation of those in this 3 community, the fact that you are so obviously 4 ill-prepared to handle a potential emergency 5 situation is a huge liability for Eversource. 6 Furthermore, with nearly 80 percent of 7 New England's heating fuel nearby, you are opening 8 yourselves up to even more possible lawsuits when 9 thousands of people do not have access to heat their 10 homes. So not only does this project put our lives 11 and the lives of our children who play in the nearby 12 parks in danger, but you are proposing that we as 13 ratepayers pay for the cost of this estimated \$62 14 million project. 15 70 percent of East Boston residents live 16 under the poverty line, and you have the audacity to 17 push the financing of this project on to us. You 18 have continued to ignore our request and a 19 well-researched study by the Union of Concerned 20 Scientists around developing the solar capacity for 21 a lower cost than building this electrical 22 substation. This project has been ongoing for 23 years, and we don't even know if this substation is 24 actually needed.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 368</p> <p>1 here. I think that just to say -- I can't imagine 2 being in your shoes, the Siting Board. I can't 3 imagine what it is like to listen to the incredible 4 intelligence of all the speakers who have come 5 forth, whether that is Representative Adrian Madaro, 6 John Walkey, numerous people who are from the 7 community who are from GreenRoots, I'm struck by the 8 substantive knowledge and perspective that they 9 have. And I can't imagine that you would come into 10 this community and actually build this substation. 11 It feels like the obvious dangers, potential dangers 12 and health, safety issues, flooding issues are just 13 without a doubt are of huge concern. 14 But I think first and foremost, building 15 a structure there would be a betrayal to -- a 16 complete betrayal to the community of East Boston. 17 And I can't imagine that Eversource or any group 18 would want to march into a community, build a 19 structure that nobody there believes is justified, 20 and it would be an absolute -- I can't even find the 21 word. It is just an outrage that this would happen. 22 I can't imagine that any of you will vote to 23 complete this project. It would be shocking to me 24 actually. That's all I have to say. Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 367</p> <p>1 Eversource says yes, and experts are 2 saying no. There needs to be a transparent analysis 3 based on current data. We deserve some 4 justification as to the necessity of this unsafe 5 substation. Thank you. 6 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 7 MR. GREENE: Pattie Heyman. 8 MS. HEYMAN: Hi, everybody. Thank you 9 for this opportunity to talk. I'm looking at John 10 Walkey, who is two boxes below me. Hi, John. 11 I was at the previous hearing, the Zoom 12 hearing and I have been in attendance of the one 13 that was in the high school, I think in Quincy. I'm 14 coming here to speak as a member of Mothers Out 15 Front, which is a state and national organization 16 that came together about seven years ago to bring 17 mothers together. And at the heart of our 18 organization is protecting children. 19 I am the co-coordinator of the 20 environmental justice team and a deep ally of 21 GreenRoots and East Boston. We have a chapter of 22 Mothers Out Front in East Boston. And I think 23 there's not a lot of new things I can say. I've 24 been listening to tremendous speakers we have had</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 369</p> <p>1 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 2 Could you spell your name and give your 3 address for the record reporter. 4 THE REPORTER: I've got it. 5 MR. GREENE: Next I believe is Maureo 6 Fernandez y Mora. 7 MR. FERNANDEZ y MORA: Can you hear me? 8 Okay. For the record, my name is Maureo, M a u r e 9 o, last name Fernandez F e r n a n d e z space y 10 space M o r a. So that is Maureo Fernandez y Mora. 11 I don't really have a lot to say that 12 hasn't already been said. It is incredibly 13 difficult for me to witness as a Massachusetts 14 resident what is happening to Chelsea, which is such 15 a central capital of labor within Massachusetts that 16 I know I personally benefit from. These are 17 essential workers who are already exposed to much 18 greater environmental and public health risks than 19 whiter wealthier neighbors, many of which we have 20 seen the consequences during this pandemic where 21 rates of COVID have been much greater in areas like 22 Chelsea, in part due to the ongoing health and 23 public health burdens that they are facing as an 24 environmental-justice community.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 370</p> <p>1 And if we were living in the type of 2 state that Massachusetts claims it wants to be, I 3 believe that it would be enough that we have heard 4 near unanimous feedback from the community that they 5 don't want this substation here. I think that if we 6 were living by our principles that would be enough 7 to at least take the project to Mass. Airport where 8 Eversource continues to refuse to explore creating 9 their substation there instead, despite the fact 10 that Mass. Airport is by far the largest user of 11 that energy that would be created.</p> <p>12 And I want to say I know Chelsea; I've 13 worked in Chelsea. I find it absolutely outrageous 14 that such a rich, well-resourced company has done 15 less in the area of public outreach than a nonprofit 16 worker like myself. Oh, and I forgot to say I'm 17 also the associate state director of Clean Water 18 Massachusetts, and I have actually worked in 19 door-to-door outreach with Chelsea.</p> <p>20 I find it absolutely egregious that such 21 a well-resourced company would dare to go into a 22 community that is predominantly Spanish speaking 23 without adequate interpretation and in some cases no 24 interpretation at all. Again, if you have the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 372</p> <p>1 My residential address is 40 Gartland Street, 2 Apartment 3 in Jamaica Plain.</p> <p>3 Good evening, everyone. My name is 4 Sriram Madhusoodanan. I'm with Corporate 5 Accountability. We are a Boston-based nonprofit 6 that challenges the abuses of transnational 7 corporations, and have more than a hundred thousand 8 members and supporters across the country, including 9 the State of Massachusetts. As I mentioned, I'm 10 also a resident of Jamaica Plain.</p> <p>11 I'm here to stand in solidarity with 12 community members and residents of East Boston and 13 GreenRoots who have spoken out time and again 14 against the siting of the Eversource substation in 15 the neighborhood.</p> <p>16 The question for the Board is very 17 simple. In a pandemic, in an historic moment of 18 uprisings for racial justice, do you stand with the 19 community of East Boston. People who time and again 20 have told you they don't want the substation in 21 their neighborhood, or do you stand with polluting 22 corporations?</p> <p>23 We are in the midst of pandemic that has 24 taken countless lives. As you have heard already,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 371</p> <p>1 resources to do better, that's really your bare 2 minimum. You should be providing adequate 3 opportunity for everyone to make their case.</p> <p>4 And despite the lack of adequate 5 outreach, I think we have are heard really clearly 6 that this substation isn't wanted. And we have also 7 heard serious concerns backed up by the city's own 8 research that this substation might be in an area 9 that could be easily flooded, adding on to the risks 10 and dangers that Chelsea residents are already 11 facing at an even greater risk.</p> <p>12 And so for all of these reasons I hope 13 that you will speak -- that you will make a decision 14 that is in accordance with all of the feedback that 15 you have heard today, most especially from the 16 residents that have really gone above and beyond to 17 make this process accessible for themselves and 18 demonstrate why the station isn't wanted, needed and 19 needs to be rejected by you. Thank you.</p> <p>20 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>21 MR. GREENE: Our next speaker is Sriram.</p> <p>22 MR. MADHUSOODANAN: My name is Sriram 23 Madhusoodanan. I will spell my name for the record. 24 S r i r a m, last name M a d h u s o o d a n a n.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 373</p> <p>1 Chelsea and East Boston continue to be some of the 2 communities that are hardest hit in the state. 3 These communities have seen some of the highest 4 rates of infection, and continue to face issues of 5 eviction, homelessness, food insecurity, and so much 6 more. And as made clear by testimony over hours 7 today and before in December and even before that, 8 even before the pandemic began, community members 9 across East Boston spoke out time and again to 10 challenge the proposal.</p> <p>11 We have seen time and again that black 12 and brown communities are the ones chosen as 13 sacrifice zones for polluting and harmful projects. 14 This is wrong, it is unacceptable, and it is an 15 injustice.</p> <p>16 As community members have testified time 17 and again, this location is in a flood zone in a 18 residential area within 800 feet of millions of 19 gallons of jet fuel. In our work we see time and 20 again how times of crisis are used to ram through 21 otherwise unpopular projects by corporations. I 22 have to ask, sitting through hours of this hearing, 23 is that what we are seeing here? Why else must this 24 hearing happen right now on a weekday in the middle</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 374</p> <p>1 of a pandemic that is continuing and when it is so 2 difficult for residents and community members to 3 attend, and to hold it over Zoom, which, as again we 4 have heard, presents significant accessibility 5 issues for the community. 6 I would again like to remind you that in 7 December 16 elected officials across Massachusetts 8 sent this letter to you, Madam Secretary, backing 9 the call for the community to postpone the original 10 hearing and reopen the question of project need. 11 That is the very least that could be done. 12 In closing, I urge you to reject the 13 proposal, to reopen the question of need, and to 14 listen to the demands of the community who have been 15 expressing their desire to not have this project so 16 eloquently for so long. Thank you. 17 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 18 MR. GREENE: Next is Robert Pittsley. 19 MR. PITTSLEY: Hello. My name is Robert 20 Michael Pittsley, last name P i t t s l e y. I'm a 21 Cambridge resident and an environmental science 22 graduate working in public health, a member of 350 23 Massachusetts and Sunrise Movement in Boston. 24 I grew up on the South Coast nearby,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 376</p> <p>1 electrical demand in the broader region, and in this 2 area specifically. This mystery data that was used 3 to justify the project is now five years old and out 4 of date. 5 While stating that they have performed 6 extensive and multilingual outreach in the 7 community, the experience of those that live in the 8 immediate vicinity of the project is that that is 9 not the case, according to them. Many people, both 10 English and Spanish speaking have been unaware of 11 the project and do not feel informed at all. 12 Despite Boston's -- the City of Boston's 13 own analysis which shows a future flood risk in this 14 precise location of the project, in the past few 15 years of street flooding right in front of the 16 project, Eversource has not altered their proposal 17 in any way to address these valid flood concerns. 18 And Eversource has repeatedly ruled out the 19 possibility of locating the substation on the 20 grounds of Logan Airport when proposed by community 21 members, even though that location would result in 22 isolation of this dangerous infrastructure away from 23 the community, better secure it from trespass and 24 flooding concerns, and locate it closer to major use</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 375</p> <p>1 near but sheltered from the pollution and that has 2 been designated to the people of Fall River and New 3 Bedford. It was here that I couldn't help but 4 notice members of the community fishing from the 5 Acushnet River just outside a collection of 6 profitable and dangerous industrial equipment. As 7 you can imagine, there were no CEOs, executives, 8 stakeholders or decision-makers living in or 9 supporting those communities. Only a large group of 10 people living in the middle of a Superfund site with 11 compromised nervous, reproductive and immune 12 systems, victimized by the aggressive cost/benefit 13 analysis and a push for profits with outside 14 interests. 15 Chelsea is familiar with this treatment 16 by the decision-makers of industry. And to be 17 perfectly clear, those aggressive, elusive and 18 inconsiderate patterns mirror the type of behavior 19 that bring me here today and tonight. Eversource 20 has never provided transparent presentation to the 21 community of actual need for this project in light 22 of ISO New England data and expert analysis from 23 groups like the Union of Concerned Scientists and 24 applied economic clinics that show a decline in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 377</p> <p>1 of electricity in the area. 2 However, it has recently been revealed 3 that Massport will be working with Eversource to 4 construct similar infrastructure about 1700 feet 5 from the proposed Condor Street substation. 6 This year people in Massachusetts made 7 it clear, they are concerned with the future of our 8 public health, sustainability and equity. Also this 9 year the world responded to the threat of our public 10 health. In response to this pandemic businesses, 11 schools and people everywhere were asked to make 12 adjustments for the greater good. 13 So tonight I'm asking you to recognize 14 and make adjustments for the greater good. 15 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 16 MR. PITTSLEY: May I have one more 17 minute? 18 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Sorry, I thought you 19 were done. We are at time. I'm encouraging people 20 to keep to time so we can get as many in as we can. 21 MR. GREENE: Next is Mireillie Bejjani. 22 MS. BEJJANI: Hi. Mireillie Bejjani, M 23 i r e i l l e, last name B e j j a n i. I live in 24 Greenfield. I am a community organizer at Community</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 378</p> <p>1 Action Works, a regional nonprofit that works side 2 by side with every-day people to confront those who 3 are polluting and harming the health of our 4 communities.</p> <p>5 I'm here in solidarity with GreenRoots 6 to ask you to reject the tentative decision for the 7 East Boston substation. There are two clear things 8 that are clear to me in considering this project. 9 First, as many have pointed out, residents in the 10 area where the substation is being proposed are 11 already suffering from tremendous environmental 12 injustice. Hundreds of years of environmental use 13 have contaminated the air, water and soil of East 14 Boston. On top of these historic factors there are 15 the present stressors of a highway, Logan Airport, 16 and an active shipping channel that brings in 17 gasoline, oil and road salts. This community is 18 carrying more than its share of environmental and 19 public health burdens. You should not add another 20 one with this substation.</p> <p>21 Second, there is no need for this 22 substation to begin with. The folks have mentioned 23 research from the Union of Concerned Scientists that 24 has demonstrated that solar capacity could be</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 380</p> <p>1 Good evening, Madam Chair, and members 2 of the Energy Facilities Siting Board. My name is 3 Justin Brown, and I'm a member of 350 Mass 4 Allston-Brighton. As citizens of Allston-Brighton 5 we stand with and are ready to fight along side 6 GreenRoots and our fellow Bostonians in East Boston 7 who are resisting the proposed construction of the 8 Eversource electrical substation.</p> <p>9 There are innumerable reasons why this 10 project should be abandoned. Briefly, we stand by 11 the rejection of this project because it is a 12 dangerous piece of equipment prone to explosive 13 events being sited next to a densely populated 14 neighborhood, an existing multi-use recreational 15 space, and several million gallons of jet fuel.</p> <p>16 Because it is being sited in a spot that 17 will be increasingly be subjected to water 18 inundation from extreme weather events, sunny-day 19 flooding and rising sea levels due to change, and 20 because it is being sited in a community already 21 suffering from the results of decades of 22 environmentally racist policy decisions.</p> <p>23 Furthermore, a recent Brown University 24 study entitled Who is Delaying Climate Action in</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 379</p> <p>1 developed instead and at a lower cost. I used to 2 live and work in California where increasing 3 wildfires in recent years have left countless people 4 without power during emergency shutoffs. In that 5 darkness there were a few bright spots. Households 6 that could keep their fridges on and avoid throwing 7 away food that had cost them a significant part of 8 their income that month. Homes that could keep 9 their cooling systems on in record temperatures and 10 avoid heat stroke. And they could do this because 11 they had solar power and storage access.</p> <p>12 Any time there is the potential to adopt 13 renewable energy, increase energy independence and 14 boost emergency resilience, we owe it to the 15 community to explore that option. East Boston 16 deserves that option.</p> <p>17 So again, I urge you to reopen this 18 decision and to reconsider the need for this 19 project. Thank you.</p> <p>20 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>21 MR. GREENE: Justin Brown.</p> <p>22 MR. BROWN: Hi. For the record, my name 23 is Justin Brown, J u s t i n, B r o w n. I live at 24 116 Englewood Avenue, Apartment 22 in Boston.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 381</p> <p>1 Massachusetts has laid bare what we all know: 2 Eversource actively spends and lobbies hard to slow 3 rapid climate action. The study shows that 4 Eversource has spent \$2.2 million lobbying against 5 over 30 climate and clean energy bills over the last 6 three sessions, more than any other single group. 7 And along with the Associated Industries of 8 Massachusetts actively lobbied against a rapid 9 transition to a renewable energy system.</p> <p>10 When it comes to creating a healthy, 11 resilient, just and sustainably powered Commonwealth 12 Eversource makes it clear. It is in a class by 13 itself. It spends big and lobbies hard to put its 14 profits over the public it serves and maintain the 15 status quo.</p> <p>16 Finally, in addition to being a climate 17 justice activist, I'm a veteran elementary 18 schoolteacher. I see first hand each day the 19 importance of safe, open space for children. An 20 alternate plan for this parcel would create more 21 open space, exactly the kind of infrastructure we 22 need. Instead decision-makers seem to be 23 prioritizing continued environmental hazard over 24 healthy growth. We say no to the dangerous proposed</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 382</p> <p>1 electrical substation in East Boston, no to the 2 environmental racism Eversource is pushing, and yes 3 to any plan that prioritizes regenerative growth. 4 I urge you to do your job. Resist being 5 a pawn in Eversource's game, and put people first. 6 Thank you. 7 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 8 MR. GREENE: Next is Mr. Basu. 9 MR. BASU: Hello. My name is Gaurab 10 Basu. I am a primary care physician and I live in 11 Cambridge and I practice in Somerville. I should 12 mention my comments today are my own and not my 13 employer's. I appreciate everyone's comments. I 14 know it has been a very long day of a hearing. 15 Usually when I speak about this I speak 16 to the public health data and what I'm seeing as a 17 physician, and that has been covered in great detail 18 already. So I'm going to just use my few comments 19 here to speak broadly to kind of how I am feeling 20 about this issue and the time that we are living in. 21 The truth is none of us could have 22 imagined the extraordinary kind of suffering that we 23 have seen this year. As a physician, as a parent it 24 has been very hard to see the pandemic's profound</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 384</p> <p>1 making sure that we can create a future for our 2 children. I'm very grateful for the important work 3 that's happening in the State House and the 4 Governor's Office and I'm hopeful that we are going 5 to have a very strong bill soon, but we can't be 6 doing that work and leaving people like the people 7 of East Boston behind. 8 That simply is not the kind of deep and 9 profound work that we need to do that that moment 10 calls us to do. And it simply doesn't truly commit 11 to the principles of racial justice and 12 environmental justice. I know people are working 13 tremendously hard to make this pathway forward so 14 that we can be healthier, that we can be safer, more 15 just. But these are the critical moments in which 16 putting an environmental justice on the bill simply 17 does not hold any kind of credibility unless these 18 critical moments of decision-making do not show our 19 values. And those values have to show that the 20 children in East Boston matter just as much as my 21 children in Cambridge. 22 So I think this is a critical moment of 23 decision-making and I really hope that we will stand 24 with the people of East Boston, many of whom are not</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 383</p> <p>1 impacts throughout the state and among my patients. 2 And the truth is that suffering was born out of a 3 lot of bad decisions, about not committing to 4 science, to not committing to democratic processes 5 where people could speak up to the values they 6 wanted in our society, and not prioritizing health 7 issues like racial injustice. 8 And we are sitting in this moment in 9 which we have a real opportunity to make change and 10 that there is a path to a safer, healthier future. 11 Sorry, my kido is not eating dinner. 12 But we have a real opportunity to make a 13 different kind of future here. And this moment 14 demands of us that we have the courage to envision 15 something better, to let go of the way that we have 16 done things in the past, and that we make a new 17 covenant of the principles and the values that we 18 hold dear. 19 I'm feeling very hopeful and encouraged 20 that these vaccines and that the federal policy on 21 climate and the state policy -- I know there are 22 people of tremendous good will who are working in 23 the administration and the government and everyone 24 on this call that we have a deep, shared purpose in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 385</p> <p>1 able to be here because of the challenges of this 2 format, and I know that they would want to be here. 3 So I think a lot of us feel the responsibility to 4 speak for the citizens there. Thanks a lot. 5 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 6 MR. GREENE: Leonard Olsen? 7 MR. OLSEN: Thank you. Can you hear me? 8 All right. My name is Leonard, L e o n a r d; the 9 last name is Olsen, O l s e n, 97 Lexington Street, 10 Apartment 2. You can call me Leo. That's East 11 Boston, sorry. 12 So I'm going to hinge my comments upon 13 the question of need as we have all spoken about, 14 not all of us but has been touched upon quite a lot, 15 but fittingly. But before I do I want to just 16 resonate what Michele had mentioned and several 17 other folks earlier about all the folks who while 18 this hearing is going on have been working jobs in 19 which they can't be sitting by a computer, child 20 care, helping their kids through school, and some of 21 the people are going to be much more burdened by 22 this process and by this proposed substation than I 23 who are not able to speak today. 24 I thought it was a little bit</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 386</p> <p>1 interesting, to put it one way, that counsel for 2 Eversource mentioned that the opposition to this 3 project was not universal, as he said. I'm not sure 4 who he has been talking to but all of those folks 5 that I just mentioned who many of them have not been 6 able to voice their opinion today, that opposition 7 has been universal. It is pretty simple when you 8 think about high-voltage substation -- 9 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Sorry, Mr. Olsen, 10 you have to slow down a little bit for the 11 translators. Sorry. Thank you. 12 MR. OLSEN: Yes, thank you. My 13 apologies. 14 The point being, as an organizer here in 15 East Boston and as a resident, anyone who 16 understands and is informed about this project has 17 been universally opposed due to all the factors that 18 have already been mentioned, and the high risk. 19 Including, I heard someone mention the risk of fire. 20 We can't underestimate that, especially concerning 21 what has happened to other substations in other 22 areas. 23 Going back to the need and going all the 24 way back to December now, I also found it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 388</p> <p>1 socially burdened community in the lens of this 2 project. At the very least, even if at the end of 3 the day that is made clear -- as it has been voiced 4 often that that need is not clear and it has not 5 been transparent -- as a side note, if the Board 6 could do what they did, what Eversource did with the 7 city and considering moving it to MassPort property 8 where at least one-third of the energy is actually 9 going to be used, as we have understood, I think 10 that would be another alternative to addressing the 11 inequities in this process. So with that, I will 12 cede back. 13 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 14 MR. GREENE: The next is Deborah Marya 15 Axner. 16 MS. AXNER: Hello. Thank you. Good 17 evening. I guess I would just as a parent I 18 wouldn't want my children living or playing near the 19 substation. And I wouldn't want to live there. And 20 I think that maybe you wouldn't either. The project 21 is dangerous. The substation is near these tanks 22 where 8 million gallons of jet fuel for Logan is 23 stored and it is likely to flood in the next few 24 years or at most decades. The contact with water, I</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 387</p> <p>1 interesting that counsel for the EFSB mentioned 2 that, kind of kept hinging on the idea of a very 3 high bar for anyone to go back and reopen the need 4 around the substation. My comment and my ask of the 5 EFSB is that you kind of weigh and juxtapose 6 whatever that high legal bar might be against the 7 survival of the community, which in our eyes is just 8 a very low bar as to our economic and environmental 9 well-being when it comes to this substation. 10 I will touch briefly on the fact that 11 even a federal agency has gone back and looked at 12 the project in Weymouth. So these kinds of things, 13 there is precedent, and that has already been built. 14 Right? That's not to mention that there's also 15 federal legislation pending and that resonates with 16 what someone said earlier, that we ask that the 17 Board at least let that legislation go through. 18 But again, I go back to this idea of a 19 high bar. And my question for the Board is this. 20 Ultimately, will you site this high bar for a 21 justification for a revolving door and pay-to-play 22 politics, or are you going to be able to use some 23 kind of discretion when it comes to the survival of 24 an economically, environmentally, public health and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 389</p> <p>1 know you know this already, but it can cause 2 explosions that would affect neighborhoods nearby. 3 There's that risk. 4 I urge you to reopen the question of 5 need for this project. It is not clear that the 6 substation is needed. Eversource has not provided 7 evidence to that. The projects that Eversource 8 originally listed as justifying the need for the 9 project have been built and they are functioning 10 without the presence of the new substation. So we 11 really need more of a justification for this 12 project. 13 I also think that if the neighborhood 14 doesn't want it, that's actually the most important 15 reason not to have it. But I think the need is also 16 a big part of that. I also think that it would have 17 been better to wait until after COVID to have an 18 in-person hearing, and a lot of people are 19 discouraged from being able to come. 20 So we are trying to build a community 21 that's built on real democracy where people have a 22 say in what their neighborhood is like and what goes 23 on in their community. And I know that you know 24 that the community in East Boston doesn't want this</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 390</p> <p>1 and that should be of the highest value in weighing 2 the decision. Thank you. 3 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 4 MR. GREENE: Tania Castro? 5 MS. CASTRO-DAUNAIS: My first name is 6 Tania, T a n i a; last name is Castro-Daunais, C a s 7 t r o - D a u n a i s. I live at 96 Byron Street, 8 Apartment 2 in East Boston. 9 Hello my name is Tania Castro-Daunais, 10 and I'm a resident of East Boston. (Spanish 11 spoken). I am a member of 350 Massachusetts and 12 Mothers Out Front East Boston. I'm hear to speak 13 out against the proposed Eversource substation 14 currently planned for a flood zone sandwiched 15 between millions of gallons of jet fuel and a 16 playground in a densely populated neighborhood in 17 East Boston. 18 East Boston is home to one of the 19 highest populations of children, at 21 percent, a 20 metric that increases our socially vulnerable index 21 rating. Our kids and residents have so much stacked 22 against them, pollution from planes, traffic 23 congestion, harbor traffic, and gas leaks, rising 24 sea levels and flooding, and one of the lowest tree</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 392</p> <p>1 schedule often complicated by multiple jobs, or to 2 understand what is being proposed in their own 3 language, which often is not English. East Boston 4 will not become the next Weymouth. The practice of 5 environmental racism, of proposing unwanted and 6 unnecessary projects in environmental-justice 7 communities, and ignoring the cries of residents who 8 are not willing to put their lives and well-being on 9 the line for your profit ends now. You must reopen 10 the question of need for this project immediately. 11 I am deeply concerned and find it 12 disturbing that the EFSB is trying to move forward 13 with the Eversource permitting process during this 14 increasingly difficult time for my neighbors. After 15 all, the permitting process before the pandemic was 16 already rife with issues of transparency and 17 accessibility, and my community continues to be shut 18 out due to the added stress of the pandemic and 19 language and technology barriers like access to an 20 internet connection. Not to mention you are also 21 now missing a vital member of your Board, Shalanda 22 Baker, who has joined the Biden administration and 23 who has exhibited the most concern for East 24 Bostonians both at the last meeting and in the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 391</p> <p>1 canopies. 2 My husband grew up in East Boston. A 3 neighborhood where I too feel right at home as it 4 remind me of my own home town, New Bedford. The 5 immigrant families here in East Boston share the 6 same hopes and dreams as my own immigrant family. 7 Both cities are rich in their cultural diversity are 8 home to hard-working immigrants, have a thriving 9 waterfront industry, and an incredible arts 10 community. 11 Both cities share another similarity, a 12 history of toxic-polluting and risky industries 13 finding ways to take up space in our neighborhoods 14 to do their dirty business and then drive back home 15 to their homes miles away where they will not have 16 to live every day with the anxieties and health 17 effects thrust upon them. Because these were not 18 risks we were consulted about, but rather they were 19 done to us. These industries often exhibit shady 20 tactics used to circumvent the need to obtain 21 community feedback by making it impossible for the 22 community to give feedback. 23 Failing to provide residents with more 24 than one chance to attend a meeting on their</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 393</p> <p>1 media. 2 Independent studies have shown that 3 using ISO New England data this proposed substation 4 might not even be needed. In fact, the studies 5 showed that a better plan for East Boston would be 6 to make use of its many flat-roofed triple-deckers 7 and that outfitting them with solar would meet any 8 and all energy needs and save a whole lot of money 9 doing it. 10 Another recent study out of Brown states 11 that Eversource is one of the highest spenders when 12 it comes to opposing climate legislation, opposing 13 the use of solar most of all. With the 14 Commonwealth's and Boston's increasing climate 15 goals, reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 being one 16 of them, how can we continue to let interest groups 17 like Eversource win and continue to set us back in 18 those goals? 19 East Boston is an environmental-justice 20 community that deserves better. We deserve to be 21 part of a just energy transition. Please reopen the 22 question of need for the substation. Thank you. 23 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 24 MR. GREENE: Leslie Dominguez-Santos?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 394</p> <p>1 MS. DOMINGEUS-SANTOS: Thank you. My 2 name is Leslie Dominguez-Santos. Thank you for the 3 opportunity to speak today. 4 I ask you to please listen, to really, 5 really listen to all of the residents that have been 6 asking you for years to not build an electrical 7 substation in a densely populated environmental- 8 justice neighborhood next to a popular playground, 9 next to millions of gallons of jet fuel in an area 10 that is known for flooding. 11 I'm asking you to reopen this case in 12 order to take in recent updated data that 13 demonstrates there is not sufficient energy demand 14 for this substation. Any estimates that include 15 electric cars do not reflect the community that you 16 are building the substation in. I'm asking you to 17 look at the City of Boston's flood predictions to 18 realize that rising seas affect flooding predictions 19 for this site and not put electricity in water next 20 to jet fuel. 21 I'm asking you to reconsider placing the 22 substation on Logan Airport's property, given that 23 they will be the largest user of the electricity. 24 And I'm asking you to reopen the case so that you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 396</p> <p>1 really poor. And how are they to access Zoom 2 meetings with no wifi or limited digital access? 3 It is also one of the most impacted 4 communities with COVID-19. How are you gathering 5 input when people are sick and dying? It is time to 6 stop pretending that you care and give lip service 7 to this false process. It is time to stand up for 8 what is right. 9 Eversource says not to reopen this case 10 because it is already adjudicated but this was not 11 fairly adjudicated. Do not move forward with this 12 business proposal. Listen to the science, but more 13 importantly listen to the community, we do not want 14 your substation. Thank you. 15 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 16 MR. GREENE: Is Sarah Dooling with us? 17 MS. DOOLING: I am. Good evening. Can 18 you hear me? Fabulous. I will keep my comments 19 brief. This meeting has been quite long. 20 For the record, I'm Sarah Dooling, S a r 21 a h, D o o l i n g. I'm the executive director at 22 the nonprofit organization Massachusetts Climate 23 Action Network. MCAN works with advocates across 24 the Commonwealth decarbonizing our energy systems</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 395</p> <p>1 will truly listen to the community. (Spanish 2 spoken) Today there's interpretation to ensure that 3 everybody here can understand. How beautiful. How 4 great that even though I'm speaking in a different 5 language you can listen to me, you can hear me and 6 understand me. But when you are using -- when you 7 are making the decisions that are going to affect 8 this community for years and years, the community 9 was not able to understand. 10 Every voice. When you are a 11 multilingual community, gathering input means 12 providing translation and interpretation from the 13 start in order to hear everyone's voices and this 14 has not happened. I'm glad that today you have 15 interpretation, but you made a tentative decision 16 without having everybody's input. You need to hear 17 community input. 18 On top of that, these meetings at 1:00 19 o'clock on a Monday in a community filled with 20 essential workers who cannot clock out to speak is 21 not taking in people's voices. East Boston has 22 remote school. So the parents are trying to keep 23 their children in school, yet you want them to be in 24 a hearing. And the wifi in many of these homes is</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 397</p> <p>1 and promoting clean energy through state and local 2 advocacy efforts. 3 I'm here today to ask that you as EFSB 4 members reopen the Eversource substation case that 5 is being proposed for the banks of the Chelsea Creek 6 in a very densely populated neighborhood of East 7 Boston adjacent to millions of gallons of jet fuel. 8 The data used for justifying the need 9 for the substation, as you all know, are based on 10 Eversource NSTAR data that neither the public nor 11 the current parties in the adjudicatory process have 12 ever been allowed to see. MCAN asks that Eversource 13 be required to give access to historical load data, 14 load forecasting analyses and outputs, including any 15 and all adjustments, and any other supporting 16 materials to Dr. Woods and to GreenRoots. 17 Moreover, these Eversource NSTAR data 18 are outdated. Board comments made in the first EFSB 19 meeting on December 16, 2020 about modifying the 20 process to revise model projections as the 21 substation matures and ages and begins to break down 22 echoes this very concern. 23 The very last thing that this community 24 needs is exposure to more risk financially in terms</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 398</p> <p>1 of cost overruns and environmentally in terms of 2 flooding. Yet the proposed substation is scheduled 3 to be built on the lowest point of the site, 4 vulnerable to flooding from Condor Street, sunny-day 5 flooding, and rising sea levels make this site an 6 overwhelmingly risky proposition. Increasing the 7 vulnerability of this community only adds to their 8 collective burdens, as so many people much more 9 eloquent than I have spoken about this evening. 10 In conclusion, MCAN stands in solidarity 11 with GreenRoots and their allies and asks that the 12 East Boston substation project vote be paused, lower 13 the bar, reopen the case, reevaluate the project 14 with current data and sensitivity to the long 15 history of environmental injustice in this 16 community. A just transition is possible and it 17 starts with pausing this project and working with 18 the residents to imagine a clean energy future that 19 is equitable. I will conclude my comments there. 20 Thank you very much and have a good 21 evening. 22 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 23 MR. GREENE: Maritza Manrique? Is she 24 here?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 400</p> <p>1 want to ask that you listen to the voices that you 2 hear today and also at many of the other hearings 3 that have happened over the last few years. I have 4 been to many of those and literally no one from the 5 community has testified in support of this 6 altercation. 7 It feels really clear that if we are not 8 listening to the local voices in those hearings that 9 something in this process is not correct. So I'm 10 really asking that you don't dismiss everything that 11 you are hearing today, that you really listen to the 12 concerns about environmental racism and injustice 13 and the impacts on the community that you are 14 hearing. 15 The second is I want to highlight how 16 irresponsible this project is, which many people 17 have said to build an electrical substation in a 18 flood zone near millions of tons of jet fuel near a 19 playground where kids play is a hazard to the 20 community that no one should have to have. That 21 alone should be strong enough of an argument to not 22 move forward with the substation. 23 I've mentioned this to several friends 24 of mine who have asked me what are you testifying at</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 399</p> <p>1 MS. BONGIOVANNI: Andy, if she is not 2 here, maybe there is someone who has her testimony. 3 She is a mother. 4 MR. GREENE: She's muted. If she could 5 unmute her microphone. 6 I'm not hearing her. We can circle back 7 to her if she can make herself audible. 8 Tali Smookler? 9 SPEAKER SMOOKLER: Can you hear me? 10 My name is Tali Smookler. T a l i, S m 11 o o k l e r. I live at 18 Vermont Street in Boston 12 and I use he/she pronouns. 13 I'm a Boston resident. I work with UU 14 MassAction, which works to mobilize Unitarian 15 Universalists to confront oppression, though I 16 personally identify as Jewish. 17 I'm showing up here today inspired by my 18 Jewish roots to support communities favoring 19 injustice and also representing the UU community 20 that I work with in Massachusetts that is guided by 21 values by justice, equity and compassion. 22 I'm here as an ally to speak against the 23 substation being proposed. I want to make three key 24 points. The first is like many others. I really</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 401</p> <p>1 or what's going on, and everyone was shocked at the 2 idea that anyone would think this is a responsible 3 decision to make, especially when there's no 4 compelling argument for a need. 5 Lastly, the fact that you are moving 6 forward with this process during a pandemic where 7 East Boston has one of the highest COVID rates in 8 the state and has also been hit economically 9 highlights how problematic the process has been. It 10 is really unreasonable to expect people to be able 11 spend, today alone, almost seven hours, and in the 12 past December hearing another four hours. People 13 are working as essential workers, feeding their 14 families, and dealing with a pandemic. And somehow 15 so many people are still here today which I think is 16 a testament to how much people care about this that 17 they are able to show up despite all of that to 18 voice opposition. 19 So I want to ask that you do what is 20 morally the right thing and also the most 21 responsible course of action and not move forward 22 with this proposal. Thanks. 23 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 24 MR. GREENE: Stephan Roundtree?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 402</p> <p>1 MR. ROUNDTREE: Can you hear me?</p> <p>2 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Yes, we are.</p> <p>3 MR. ROUNDTREE: Good evening. My name</p> <p>4 is Stephan Roundtree, Jr., S t e p h a n, R o u n d</p> <p>5 t r e e. I'm calling in from 4761 Broadway, New</p> <p>6 York, New York, but I'm a born and raised Bay Stater</p> <p>7 and also the northeast director of Vote Solar</p> <p>8 501(c)(3) nonprofit, which focuses on the robust and</p> <p>9 socially just development of solar energy. I'm</p> <p>10 testifying in solidarity with our neighbors at</p> <p>11 GreenRoots. Thank you, Secretary Theoharides, and</p> <p>12 the EFSB for the opportunity to provide testimony.</p> <p>13 Vote Solar believes that Eversource</p> <p>14 should be required to provide a detailed reasonably</p> <p>15 current analysis of projected electric.</p> <p>16 REPORTER: Please slow down and repeat</p> <p>17 clearly.</p> <p>18 Vote Solar believes that Eversource</p> <p>19 should be required to provide a detailed and</p> <p>20 reasonably current analysis of projected electric</p> <p>21 loads as well as alternative means for responding to</p> <p>22 existing load. Energy efficiency, local renewable</p> <p>23 energy generation, battery storage, and demand</p> <p>24 response all offer safer, more functional services</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 404</p> <p>1 where immigrants and non-English speakers live,</p> <p>2 rightly bears the stain of state-sanctioned</p> <p>3 environmental racism regardless of whether it meets</p> <p>4 the state's definition or imposed burdens of proof.</p> <p>5 Whether the substation at issue is</p> <p>6 necessary or not -- I'll reiterate that the answer</p> <p>7 has not been adequately provided by Eversource to</p> <p>8 reflect current data -- siting in the area already</p> <p>9 saturated with hazardous land uses,</p> <p>10 disproportionately poor health outcomes, without</p> <p>11 meaningful transparency, input and discussion of</p> <p>12 alternatives with the local community fits the</p> <p>13 common-sense definition.</p> <p>14 I'll also note the process of this</p> <p>15 hearing, as others have, has been poor and doesn't</p> <p>16 reflect the needs of the public.</p> <p>17 I'll finally share that my brother is a</p> <p>18 doctor who lives in East Boston and is treating</p> <p>19 COVID patients. I really would hope that this panel</p> <p>20 treats this decision with the dignity and humanity</p> <p>21 that everyone like my brother deserve and uses the</p> <p>22 power that it has to make the right choice.</p> <p>23 Thank you. I yield my time.</p> <p>24 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 403</p> <p>1 to the community while potentially meeting the need</p> <p>2 for a substation more cheaply. These solutions have</p> <p>3 already been conceived and developed by folks in the</p> <p>4 community. GreenRoots has already identified with</p> <p>5 robust community input the need for renewables,</p> <p>6 storage and resiliency features. The recent study</p> <p>7 with the Union of Concerned Scientists shows that,</p> <p>8 among other things, that a substation may not be</p> <p>9 necessary if distributed solar to power 2,000 homes</p> <p>10 were installed in the vicinity. This is an</p> <p>11 achievable number, an incomparably safer and more</p> <p>12 locally beneficial approach to meeting electric</p> <p>13 demand than building on a flood plain near jet fuel</p> <p>14 tanks in a residential neighborhood.</p> <p>15 These alternative interventions could</p> <p>16 offer a win-win for ratepayers in both communities.</p> <p>17 Instead, choosing to ram home a costly substation in</p> <p>18 such a precarious spot represents to me a clear lack</p> <p>19 of concern for the well-being of the community in a</p> <p>20 pandemic, in a climate crisis, as others have</p> <p>21 mentioned.</p> <p>22 As a general remark, siting and building</p> <p>23 unsightly and potentially hazardous projects where</p> <p>24 black and brown people, people who make low income,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 405</p> <p>1 MR. GREENE: Audrey Bennett.</p> <p>2 MS. BENNETT: My name is Audrey Bennett,</p> <p>3 A u d r e y, B e n n e t t. I'm in Cambridge. I'm</p> <p>4 also a member of 350 Massachusetts.</p> <p>5 I'm here today to add my voice to the</p> <p>6 many voices speaking out against the Eversource</p> <p>7 substation being proposed for the banks of the</p> <p>8 Chelsea Creek in a densely populated neighborhood of</p> <p>9 East Boston.</p> <p>10 I care about this issue as a resident of</p> <p>11 Cambridge because I am concerned that my neighbors</p> <p>12 across the river are not being heard. From the</p> <p>13 language translation failures to the fact that this</p> <p>14 meeting is scheduled for seven hours during a</p> <p>15 workday with minimal guidance on when we will speak,</p> <p>16 there has been a obvious lack of consideration for</p> <p>17 the community's voice. Not to mention the fact that</p> <p>18 the environmental seat of the EFSB is vacant and the</p> <p>19 fact that we are in the middle of an ongoing</p> <p>20 pandemic that has caused so much food and job</p> <p>21 insecurity.</p> <p>22 As you know, there are two outstanding</p> <p>23 Title VI civil rights complaints about this project</p> <p>24 filed with federal agencies that are unresolved in</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 406</p> <p>1 addition to an ongoing EPA-launched civil rights 2 compliance review of EEA and its agencies. I care 3 because for too long Chelsea and East Boston have 4 borne the brunt of infrastructure needs for areas 5 far beyond so that other communities, such as mine, 6 can enjoy cleaner air and water and fewer health and 7 safety risks. This substation adds to that history. 8 It is past time that my community adds 9 our voice to amplify the voices of our neighbors in 10 their fight for their community and basic rights. 11 It is unacceptable and unjust to continue to put 12 profits above people, as in the case of this 13 substation. If we want to serve the community, this 14 site should have a soccer field, not a substation. 15 Don't you think that makes much more sense next to a 16 playground? Thank you. 17 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 18 MR. GREENE: Maria Belen Power? 19 SPEAKER: I know that Maritza wanted to 20 speak earlier, and I believe she was available. 21 MR. GREENE: She's in the panel, but her 22 microphone is off and camera is off. 23 SPEAKER: I heard it is working. 24 MR. GREENE: Let's give it a shot.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 408</p> <p>1 areas. We take the children during the summer and 2 springtime, we take them out for walks. All these 3 arguments are really what worry us in our community. 4 Thank you for the opportunity, and we 5 are quite alert about these meetings. Thank you. 6 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 7 MR. GREENE: Maria Belen Power? 8 MS. BELEN POWER: Good evening. My name 9 is Maria Belen Power, M a r i a, B e l e n, P o w e 10 e r. I live at 13 Admirals Way in Chelsea. Before 11 I start and talk about my job, I'm going to 12 introduce myself because this matters. 13 So residents, livelihoods in Chelsea in 14 East Boston matter. My name is Maria Belen. I live 15 and work in Chelsea. I'm a mother of two daughters, 16 seven and three years old. My husband and I are 17 originally from Nicaragua. Nicaragua is one of the 18 brutist countries in the hemisphere. Like many of 19 my neighbors in Chelsea and East Boston. So we come 20 from war-torn countries, impoverished, with a big 21 history of violence. The majority of East Boston 22 residents, and Chelsea residents as well, they are 23 fleeing violence, poverty, natural disasters and 24 much more.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 407</p> <p>1 MS. MANRIQUE: Thank you. My name is 2 Maritza Manrique. I'm a resident for 16 years here 3 in East Boston. 4 Our community is, we are all worried due 5 to this substation. We don't really find, can't 6 have a real sense of a community to have this 7 substation, especially now that we are going through 8 this pandemic, not a very healthy environment. We 9 have children. We are looking at short and middle 10 term what consequence we might have for this 11 substation to be in our community. 12 So my presence here is just in the name 13 of all the community in Boston, for residents for 14 more than ten to 20 years. So we are very worried 15 about the concerns, what's worrying us, what is 16 exposing our community, we are totally opposed to 17 that due to the reasons that have already been 18 mentioned in this meeting. So that's my input into 19 this meeting. 20 Practically I'm working in my community 21 for many, many years; family child-care instructor 22 for 15 years. I work with children. Also parents 23 themselves have also expressed their concerns for 24 their children's future. So we go to these green</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 409</p> <p>1 So now as an associate director of 2 GreenRoots in this area, I'm going to make some 3 points here. The first one is as far as the 4 interpretation. You are asking the people that they 5 speak slower because it is necessary to be able to 6 interpret. However, at the same time we are 7 limiting them their own participation time. So you 8 are not really adding to them the time for these 9 people to recover all their lost time due to 10 interpretation because they have to do it slower. 11 This is another clear sample that this meeting 12 doesn't understand what it means, linguistic justice 13 and access to interpretation, and fair 14 participation. 15 After so many hours waiting, they are 16 limiting commentaries by the participants to the 17 same time when there was no interpretation. This is 18 not linguistic justice. 19 Now the vote. As far as today's vote -- 20 No, I'm not stopping in 30 seconds. I'm 21 going to continue talking. 22 Today's vote has completely excluded the 23 community, particularly the immigrant community, the 24 working class that does not speak English. This</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 410</p> <p>1 project was tentatively approved in 2017 before an 2 audience that really did not take place in the East 3 Boston neighborhood wherein there was no 4 interpretation. So we complained quite immediately 5 and sent a letter to the environmental secretary. 6 He never really had the courage to reply to us. 7 So we have to sue EPA due to the lack of 8 language access during this process. You would 9 never be interpreting these proceedings, you would 10 never have community interpretation to the community 11 had it not been for our lawsuits against the EPA, 12 because we also publicly complained due to the lack 13 of civil rights in our community. 14 How is it possible that the audience, 15 the 2017 audience where there was no interpretation, 16 that it did not take place in the same neighborhood, 17 continues to be where that meeting where the civil 18 rights of the residence for East Boston were 19 violated? It's not possible that a project of this 20 magnitude with so much opposition has been 21 tentatively approved without interpretation. This 22 is perpetuation of environmental racism and cultural 23 racial exclusion. 2017's audience meeting should be 24 repeated completely. You, Madam Secretary, you have</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 412</p> <p>1 to enrich. And meanwhile they are exposing our 2 community's lives at risk. Why don't we find a 3 safer place like the airport that has 24-7 security 4 and a community living right next to it? If 5 necessary, what doesn't Eversource suggest to East 6 Boston the same thing proposed to Martha's Vineyard? 7 Instead of an electric installation there in 8 Martha's Vineyard, they installed batteries to 9 mediate transmission issues. 10 This is literally the definition of 11 environmental racism, a mostly white population with 12 a lot of resources, they get the most modern and 13 safe infrastructure. However, in our immigrant 14 community with low income and resources that don't 15 speak English, so now we get the most dangerous 16 electric plant in the most dangerous places with the 17 most excluding processes. 18 I would like to end by transportation 19 climate initiative, as it is said in English, whose 20 objective is to electrify the electric energy. This 21 initiative is one of the ways in which the State of 22 Massachusetts and you, Madam Secretary, have argued 23 is going to lower pollution in the transportation 24 sector. One of the biggest objectives is to reduce</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 411</p> <p>1 the power to do so. 2 Now, I understand that the Governor 3 perhaps doesn't want to have Eversource upset 4 because Eversource is one of the companies that has 5 donated most money to the Governor's campaigns. I 6 understand that the Governor doesn't care for 7 Chelsea and East Boston. We have seen that in the 8 pandemic. The Governor has not come to our 9 communities. But you, Madam Secretary, you have the 10 capacity, you have the compassion, you have the 11 ability to defend the environmental justice. You 12 have the capacity to reopen this question and this 13 project if it is truly necessary. 14 Data and information, it is very 15 outdated. You have the authority to request for 16 more updated information. How is it possible that 17 this meeting continues with a project using such 18 outdated information? Why won't you reevaluate this 19 project to see whether it is really necessary? And 20 if it is, that's fine. We are not against it, 21 because communities have reliable energy and 22 consistent energy. 23 What we don't want is that this Board 24 approves a project simply for Eversource to continue</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 413</p> <p>1 carbon emissions and electrify the network, the 2 grid. 3 So we have several concerns about that 4 initiative. One of the most important ones is 5 equitable distribution of the new necessary 6 infrastructures. So you committed to prioritizing 7 environmental initiative. So you personally spoke 8 to this initiative as a tool to give priority to 9 most vulnerable communities. This is exactly the 10 opposite. 11 I would now like to conclude by saying 12 after many, many hours and more hours of 13 commentaries, days and years, listen to the 14 opposition of this project. If you approve this 15 proposition without reopening the question whether 16 this project is really necessary or without 17 considering any alternatives, such as the airport, 18 this proceeding is going to confirm one more time 19 that this is nothing more than just theater, that 20 you really are not listening to the voice of the 21 most verbal residents; that you really are 22 interested in the profits for the corporations and 23 the status quo. And finally that this Board is 24 simply only here to respond and to approve the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 414</p> <p>1 industries' needs and you are not interested in the 2 safety of the residents. Thank you. 3 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. I think 4 we have time for a couple more before we stop for 5 the evening. 6 MR. GREENE: Our next speaker, Jonathan 7 Gomez-Pereira. 8 MR. GOMEZ-PEREIRA: Good evening. My 9 name is Jonathan Gomez-Pereira. I'm a lifelong 10 Chelsea resident (Spanish spoken). I just wanted to 11 start -- I don't have a planned sort of thing. I'm 12 snowballing off of what folks have said. 13 I'm sure you heard a lot of pushback, 14 justified pushback. I want to elaborate around a 15 term that has been tossed around a bit tonight and 16 that term is sacrifice zones. That's what East 17 Boston and Chelsea are. It is really is an 18 elaboration on the term called national sacrifice 19 zones, which was something coined by the U.S. 20 government in designating an area of land that was 21 highly contaminated as the result of mining of 22 uranium during the Cold War. 23 That has sort of shifted as we approach 24 the contemporary. What that looks like now is</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 416</p> <p>1 personal elaboration on that. 2 I really would urge you guys to consider 3 the work that you are doing. It really -- like 4 folks have said, there doesn't seem to be a need for 5 it. And the only reason this really is able to 6 succeed is because you are preying on existing 7 social inequalities. Some of those have been 8 mentioned, racism, you are literally preying on 9 xenophobia racism. This kind of conversation would 10 never happen in wealthier, whiter areas in the 11 Greater Boston area. But because Chelsea and East 12 Boston aren't that, we are having this conversation 13 tonight. And it hasn't just been tonight. I assume 14 this conversation will continue on to tomorrow and 15 days after this, which is very unfortunate. So 16 again, I'm urging you to consider reopening this 17 case. 18 Then to elaborate on what those health 19 and economic sacrifices look like, I'm an organizer 20 here in Chelsea. What that looks like is folks -- I 21 work with people often. Some of them have mixed 22 immigration statuses and have endured a lot during 23 this pandemic, and you layering on a substation 24 really isn't helpful. People are literally losing</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 415</p> <p>1 Chelsea and East Boston. These are locations that 2 are inhabited by low-income, marginalized 3 populations who live adjacent to heavy industry. 4 What that looks like here is the airport, the jet 5 fuel, all of the things that have been mentioned 6 earlier tonight. As a result of this intimate 7 proximity, those living in these sacrifice zones are 8 forced to make disproportionate health and economic 9 sacrifices that their affluent and oftentimes white 10 counterparts can often avoid. 11 I don't know if any of you guys are 12 living in Chelsea or East Boston or have really 13 experienced what it is like to live here. It is 14 almost like we are breathing different air because 15 we quite literally are. 16 Something else to note with sacrifice 17 zones. There's some scholarship on it and some 18 patterns have emerged. So one of those patterns is 19 when community members challenge their status as 20 sacrifice zones in this capitalistic system, state 21 officials, like yourselves, and industries fail to 22 give straight answers or rarely give any 23 comprehensive information, hence we are getting the 24 pushback tonight. Right? So that's sort of my</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 417</p> <p>1 their jobs or have lost their job, are quarantining, 2 aren't fully able to participate in this allegedly 3 democratic process. That's unjust. That would 4 never happen in a white neighborhood. 5 So I ask you as either Board members of 6 the substation or as officials of the state to 7 really consider how you are not even like complicit 8 in white supremacist violence but actual 9 perpetrators. That's what this is. With that, I 10 will yield my time. Thank you. 11 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 12 MR. GREENE: Next is Susan Lemont. 13 MS. LEMONT: Hi there. It is good to be 14 here. I know it is a long evening. I'll try to be 15 succinct. My name is Susan Lemont, L e m o n t. I 16 live at 90 Robbins Road in Arlington, Massachusetts, 17 02476. I am a member of the Boston Chapter of 18 Extinction Rebellion, a climate activist 19 organization, and I appreciate the opportunity to 20 comment tonight. 21 Extinction Rebellion Boston rejects the 22 proposed Eversource substation. The community 23 strongly opposes this project, and Eversource has 24 not made a compelling argument for building it. In</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 418</p> <p>1 fact, this situation reminds me of the Weymouth 2 natural gas compressor. Extinction Rebellion has 3 taken action against both the East Boston substation 4 and Weymouth compressor. At first they seem like 5 two separate issues. The compressor keeps us from 6 fulfilling the Extinction Rebellion demand of having 7 the government act now to reduce greenhouse gas 8 emissions to net zero by 2025, not 2050. 9 The Eversource substation is a 10 climate-justice issue. More than 60 percent of East 11 Boston residents are people of color, 45 percent are 12 immigrants in this largely low-income area. The 13 proposed substation will be built on Chelsea Creek 14 which already accommodates a hundred percent of the 15 jet fuel for Logan, 79 percent of the gasoline used 16 in Massachusetts, 66 percent of home heating oil for 17 the region, and road salt for over 300 cities and 18 towns. This is already too much to bear for one 19 community. 20 If we look closely at the Weymouth 21 compressor and Eversource substation controversies, 22 they are similar. In both situations federal and 23 state regulators ignore the concerns of the 24 residents, and the utility assessing them are saying</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 420</p> <p>1 and reject building the substation. I urge you to 2 do so. 3 Thanks for giving me the opportunity to 4 comment. I appreciate you paying attention after 5 this long day and have a good evening. 6 MR. GREENE: Neomy Rodriquez. 7 MS. RODRIQUEZ: My name is Neomy 8 Rodriquez. I am an East Boston resident for eight 9 years. I live here with three of my children. One 10 of the biggest worries is that they keep us as 11 somebody who is ignorant. Something that really 12 hurts. I'm an immigrant woman with a passion to 13 work very hard in this country with dignity, and a 14 lot of it. I'm here representing our community. 15 I'm an organizer in the coastal region 16 of Boston. I also agree with something that's 17 worried me lately. Being a longtime resident, I did 18 not know that this is what they were doing, the 19 construction of the electric plant. Let me tell 20 you, ignorance doesn't go further than you think of 21 it. 22 When I was a child I heard an explosion 23 for an electric plant when I was eight years old. 24 And that is horrible. I was able to witness the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 419</p> <p>1 these facilities are necessary. Yet construction 2 meets further resistance. 3 As we have previously heard in this 4 hearing, Eversource has not made a convincing 5 argument for building the substation here. The 6 situation is similar to the Weymouth compressor. 7 Like Eversource, they could not make a compelling 8 case as to why the compressor was necessary. In 9 October 2019, both Eversource and National Grid 10 stated that they can meet natural gas demand without 11 the compressor. Enbridge still built the facility 12 with the cooperation of regulators. Our US senators 13 and congressional delegates opposed both facilities, 14 but this did not prevent the projects from going 15 forward. 16 As with East Boston, the residents have 17 considerable safety concerns in Weymouth. Federal 18 regulators are going to revisit these grievances 19 although the compressor is ready to activate. It is 20 clear that the state and federal regulators are 21 ignoring what is best for both these communities. 22 The Weymouth compressor is almost in operation. But 23 today the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can cast 24 aside politics, put the needs of East Boston first,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 421</p> <p>1 smoke coming out of that plant, very thick smoke, 2 that smell. It was like something burnt. This is 3 not easy. So now, I think when I heard about the 4 electrical station, to relive the same event when I 5 was a child. So this terrorizes human beings. So 6 now that you are realizing what my history is with 7 my children. So I'm a hundred percent certain that 8 all of this causes the defects that my children 9 have. Now I suffer with an epileptic child and with 10 some other serious issues. It is very important to 11 highlight this kind of thing as a human being. This 12 is not something to laugh at. 13 Money is not worth more than our life. 14 Human lives are more important than what people 15 think. So I think this is the moment to say no to 16 this substation. We need a park for our children to 17 be able to have recreation facilities so that our 18 children have the same point of view of a clean 19 society. 20 I'm here because they neglected to 21 listen to us when we said we didn't really want any 22 more meetings via Zoom, because a lot of parents and 23 family in our community are right now bedridden 24 because of the pandemic.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 422</p> <p>1 So you need to take into account all the 2 statements and all the testimony from the East 3 Boston residents need to have a real value being 4 that those are the ones that are going to feel the 5 economic and environmental impact. So I want to 6 make that clear. So we are immigrants but not 7 ignorant. So you need to have that in your mindset. 8 We don't want the substation here. I'm 9 an immigrant from the thousands who fight for this 10 country and our children. Because our children also 11 deserve to live in a healthy and clean environment. 12 We don't want this substation over here. I'm 13 telling you that as an Hispanic woman and work for 14 the community very hard to help many families that 15 are right now in need of it. We need green zones. 16 We need recreational fields. We need something that 17 we can educate our children so that we can care and 18 protect the environment. 19 Because the future is in the children's 20 hands. We are only going through this. But our 21 children are the ones who are going to live in the 22 sectors where in time there's going to be total 23 pollution here. So we do not want the substation in 24 East Boston. Thank you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 424</p> <p>1 country. So if there's some strange reason why 2 demand is suddenly surging here, we need to know 3 about it. 4 I have been covering the utility space 5 for the last 15 years. As I have looked at project 6 after project, at the way utilities think about 7 building infrastructure, it is clear that they are 8 constantly using outdated data and outdated 9 assumptions. 10 The substation is clearly not in the 11 interest of the community. Everybody on here 12 understands that this is not something that we want 13 because of where it is being located. As we heard 14 from experts earlier, the flood maps that are being 15 used are hopelessly out of date. The projections of 16 energy demand by utilities are frequently overblown. 17 This is a problem across the utility industry in 18 general. If Eversource says they have an 19 overwhelming need, I encourage them to come forward 20 and show us the information. 21 I go down to Condor Park every day with 22 my 18-month-old daughter. I go down to that 23 playground, and that is a place that I love very 24 much. The idea that now when I go down there with</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 423</p> <p>1 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: We will take one 2 more and then we will reconvene in the morning. 3 MR. GREENE: I guess our next speaker 4 and last for the evening will be Stephen Lacey. 5 MR. LACEY: Hi, everybody. Thanks for 6 allowing us to speak and talk through this. I 7 appreciate everybody's time. I'm a resident of East 8 Boston. My name is Stephen Lacey, S t e p h e n, L 9 a c e y. I live on 223R Princeton Street here in 10 East Boston on Eagle Hill just around corner from 11 the proposed substation. I'm a journalist covering 12 utilities, climate change, the march of clean 13 energy. 14 I'm not someone who reflexively rejects 15 infrastructure. I understand there are trade-offs 16 to anything we build. But in this case we don't 17 even know what the trade-offs are. I've sat here 18 for hours and it is clear to me that Eversource has 19 not provided any data to back up its case that we 20 can look at objectively. The five-year-old data, 21 the federal data that we are talking about, that is 22 ancient in this world. Demand for electricity has 23 been flat for almost a decade across this country. 24 It is flattening in almost every region around the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 425</p> <p>1 my year-and-a-half-year-old daughter that there's 2 going to be a substation right there next to fuel 3 tanks in an area where it is pretty clear that 4 flooding is going to get worse, it is just 5 unconscionable to me. 6 But the most important thing about this 7 is that the utilities want to build stuff. Right? 8 You want to build something. You make a rate of 9 return. Why not build something for the community? 10 We have heard a number of people talk 11 about the study of what it would take to build 12 rooftop solar systems or battery storage systems or 13 the use of demand response. There are so many 14 unique ways that we can manage demand without having 15 to just put more steel in the ground in communities 16 that don't want it. 17 So I just urge you to take a look at 18 this, to reconsider the project and think if there 19 is some way that we need to service new demand here, 20 how can we do it differently and how can we do it 21 with the community's concerns in mind. You can 22 build stuff, but you can build it smarter. We have 23 the technologies today, the battery storage, cheap 24 rooftop storage systems, energy efficiency,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 426</p> <p>1 weatherization, demand response, that stuff all 2 exists. If a utility was smart and it wanted to do 3 this, it could build any number of combinations of 4 those technologies for the community to service that 5 demand. So I urge you to do this differently. You 6 can do this differently. Thank you so much. 7 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 8 Thank you to everyone who joined the 9 hearing today and for your attention and for your 10 patience. 11 Tomorrow we will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. 12 at which point we will take some additional public 13 comment. We do need to begin our deliberations. I 14 expect that will go about 30 to 40 minutes of public 15 comment followed by deliberations at that point. 16 I will need at this point a motion to 17 adjourn the hearing tonight. 18 MR. BONFIGLIO: So moved. 19 MS. BONGIOVANNI: Is there a list of how 20 many have not spoken or presigned? 21 MR. GREENE: There are approximately ten 22 more folks who preregistered to speak that we hadn't 23 got to this evening, and there were a few missed 24 along the way that were not here. I do see a few</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 428</p> <p>1 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: All in favor? 2 (All: Aye.) 3 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Any further 4 instructions you would like to give for tomorrow's 5 meeting? 6 MR. GREENE: Same Zoom link, same bad 7 time and bad channel, as they say, and the remaining 8 speakers we will hear from tomorrow. We start at 9 9:00 a.m. as described in the notice. That's pretty 10 much it. 11 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Okay. Thank you. 12 Good night. 13 (8:17 p.m.) 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 427</p> <p>1 hands raised in the attendees group. Those are 2 presumably additional folks who would like to speak. 3 So maybe somewhere around a dozen or so. 4 MR. WALKEY: If you are going between 5 your list that was circulated of who was signed up 6 to speak, and then the people in the participants 7 list some of the folks, I think Heather O'Brien is 8 one who was listed up there at 617 Harbor. They may 9 have not have their name listed as their screen 10 handle. I think we need to announce that to folks. 11 Heather has been on the call but she was skipped 12 over because her name wasn't listed in the 13 participants. We need to double-check and call out 14 people's names to see if they respond. 15 MR. GREENE: We will do that when we 16 resume tomorrow. Apologies for overlooking. 17 MS. BONGIOVANNI: There are people who 18 would like to speak as they would in a public 19 hearing in person but who didn't sign up in advance. 20 Will they be allowed to speak tomorrow? 21 MR. GREENE: That was our intention. 22 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. I think 23 I had a motion. Do I have a second? 24 MR. WOODCOCK: Second.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 429</p> <p>1 C E R T I F I C A T E 2 3 4 I, David A. Arsenault, Registered 5 Professional Reporter, and Certified Reporter in the 6 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, #100693, do hereby 7 certify that the foregoing record is a true and 8 accurate transcript of my stenographic notes taken 9 on 2.8.21 in the above-captioned matter. 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 _____ 18 David A. Arsenault, RPR 19 20 21 22 23 24</p>

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