

March 5, 2026

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## **\*PRESS RELEASE\***

# **Advocates say “Fazio carrying water for utilities and energy corporations”**

[Photos/videos here](#)

[Hartford] - Advocates gathered outside the Legislative Office Building today ahead of the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology public hearing, questioning Ranking Member Senator Ryan Fazio’s energy agenda and its close alignment with [utility](#) and [gas pipeline](#) and nuclear corporation agendas.

Advocates who represent Connecticut Citizen Action Group handed out flyers calling Fazio “The utilities’ waterboy.” Advocates held signs with phrases like “Stop Lying, Stop Blaming the People” and “Eversource Profits Doubled = High Cost of Energy” and chanted “Stop Fossil-Fazio!”

Eversource and Senator Fazio have placed the blame for Connecticut’s high rates on the public benefit charge which in part supports low-income and clean energy programs. [Fazio has also argued for an increased supply of methane gas, the building of more pipelines through the state, and more incentives for nuclear power.](#)

Absent from Fazio’s agenda is any accountability from the leading sources of Connecticut’s high energy costs – the state’s utility companies and the gas and nuclear corporations that generate costly energy. [Eversource’s profits doubled](#) since last year to \$1.69 billion; [Dominion Energy reported \\$3 billion](#) in profits, and gas pipeline companies operating in Connecticut have also reported billions in profits.

[The utility companies](#) successfully ran a multiyear bullying campaign to force out Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) Chair Marissa Gillett to get a [PURA more favorable to their rate increase requests](#). [During the 2023-2024 legislative session, Eversource spent \\$1.6 million trying to sway state government.](#)

“We are here to make sure that people know where Senator Fazio’s loyalties are,” said **Tom Swan, Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group**. “Utility companies have their shareholders’ best interest at heart - our lawmakers should have their constituents’ best interest. Democrats need to start pushing back harder against his dishonest demagoguery.”

“More of the same dirty methane gas power that increases energy bills is not the pathway to lower costs,” said **Samantha Dynowski, Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter Director**. “Taking away the programs that help lower costs for customers isn’t the answer either. This approach will only boost

profits for the energy corporations already raking in billions from us every year, while taking away energy bill savings from Connecticut families and businesses.”