

NEW YORK  
STATE  
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



April 4, 2011

Kimberly D. Bose  
Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Secretary Bose,

I write regarding a serious matter affecting countless people throughout New York City.

It has come to my attention that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved a 12 percent increase in electricity rates for New York City residents and a 17.5 percent increase for New York City businesses which will be implemented on May 28, 2011.

Such a rate hike would cause major increases to monthly electricity bills, which could negatively impact the ability of residents and businesses to afford their other monthly expenses.

Apparently, your agency passed this rate hike based on the belief that power companies in New York City require an additional \$500 million per year in order to function effectively due to high property taxes. This information, however, is false as power generating companies receive major discounts on property taxes in New York City. In fact, some of those tax cuts have already been awarded to new power plants that are currently being built.

In addition, Consolidated Edison, a major power distribution company in New York City, recently increased its rates by 4 percent, which just went into effect on April 1. The combination of this rate increase along with FERC's rate increase will force New Yorkers to pay exorbitant monthly electricity bills that will cause continued, if not greater hardship and suffering for New York City's hardworking citizens that simply cannot afford to keep paying these increases.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that you reconsider this rate increase. Since New Yorkers continue to struggle to heat their homes and provide food and clothing for their families during extremely difficult economic times, I implore you to re-evaluate the necessity for this rate increase, especially given the significant existing tax-breaks already enjoyed by these wealthy power companies.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Michael N. Gianaris  
State Senator

cc. Honorable Charles Schumer  
Honorable Kirstin Gillibrand  
Honorable Michael Bloomberg  
Honorable Jon Wellinohoff, Chairman