

Date: January 28, 2026

To whom it may concern:

I am writing today to express my concern regarding the cost of electricity in New York state.

As you are aware, electricity rates have increased significantly over the past two years. A comparison of my January 2024 and January 2026 electric bills, **at the same usage** shows an **increase of \$334.18**. While some people contribute the increased cost to smart meters, the actual driver of the high bills that people truly cannot afford are the constant delivery rate increases, new charges added to our bills and high supply rates.

The New York State Department of Public Service has a broad mandate to ensure access to safe, reliable utility service **at just and reasonable rates**. I would argue that our current utility rates are not just nor reasonable. An average home in New York should not have a monthly electric bill that costs more than their mortgage. My January statement was \$928.74. This costs more than my mortgage and car payment combined.

I am writing to ask for your assistance in controlling the out-of-control utility costs. My wife and I (I am retired from the Air Force) are raising our four grandchildren in upstate New York. We are fortunate, right now, to be able to manage our electricity bill and provide food, etc. for the children. Many families cannot. They are being forced to choose between buying food or keeping their heat on. Many people have had their heat turned off. That is something that should not happen. Yes, there are programs where *some* people qualify for assistance. However, most people make just enough to not qualify. The situation is dire. Everyone knows this.

We are asking for your support in whatever budget actions are available to freeze the rates to ensure there are not additional increases and evaluate the current rates to see why New Yorkers are being forced to pay such extremely high electric bills.

Sincerely,

Jeff Allen