



NEW YORK STATE SENATE

February 10, 2022

Rory M. Christian, Chair and CEO
Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3
Albany, NY 12223

Timothy P. Cawley, Chairman, President, & CEO
Consolidated Edison, Inc.
4 Irving Place
New York, New York 10003

Mr. Christian and Mr. Cawley,

As State Senators for the 35th and 37th Senate Districts of New York State, we represent a number of municipalities in Westchester impacted by significant Con Edison energy cost increases for this past billing period. It appears that recent spikes in energy prices have coincided with a planned rate increase that was approved by the Public Service Commission in 2019, a rate increase we both opposed. The result has been a dramatic jump in ratepayers' invoices, many of whom have reached out to our offices in substantial distress and sent their bills as proof. The difference from December bills to January in some cases is a near doubling of previous costs.

We have grave concerns about the financial shock these high costs will have for our constituents and others across New York State. The rise in charges will result in serious challenges for many New Yorkers, particularly those already struggling to make ends meet. We believe this situation is unacceptable and that the Public Service Commission and Con Edison need to take immediate action to provide relief to ratepayers, including:

1. Pursuing all available options to suspend the rate increase and take such other actions as would mitigate the effects on ratepayers, including flattening out expenses through penalty-free payment delays for all ratepayers.

2. Investigating and providing information on what hedging protection Con Edison pursued to alleviate the effect of energy price jumps of this magnitude, and whether more could have been done and still can be done to reduce fluctuations in energy prices.
3. Affirmatively reaching out to all ratepayers to explicitly communicate the details of this situation and what relief is available so that they have more clarity about how this situation arose and what is being done to help them.

New Yorkers cannot endure these excessive energy costs. Furthermore, we do not accept the proposition that the financial distress experienced by our constituents is purely the result of market fluctuations and therefore out of the hands of the Public Service Commission and Con Edison. Both the Public Service Commission and Con Edison have a responsibility to ratepayers, and such dramatic and unexpected cost increases demand action on your part in order to fulfill that responsibility.

Finally, beyond this short-term crisis, we need to be better prepared for future energy price shocks and attendant financial threats to ratepayers. We ask for you to join us in a serious re-evaluation of the status quo and the development of improved strategies for staving off future disasters such as this.

Sincerely,



Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senate President Pro Tempore
and Majority Leader
35th Senate District



Shelley B. Mayer
Senator
37th Senate District

cc:

Rory Lancman, Special Counsel for Ratepayer Protection, Public Service Commission