



February 11, 2025

Dear Chair and CEO Christian:

I am writing to express my objection with Con Edison's recent request to raise electric rates by 11.4% and natural gas rates by 13.3%. I am requesting that this proposal be rejected as it would burden New Yorkers who are already struggling to make ends meet after several years of inflationary pressures in the marketplace. The message to Con Edison should be straightforward: go back to the drawing board and find a better way.

As you know, in each of my enacted budgets since taking office, I have reversed a long-standing trend in New York of siphoning revenue from ratepayers for government budget relief. Between 2008 and 2018, utility ratepayers paid billions of dollars in hidden taxes to New York State government and billions more to local governments in the way of property taxes. I am the only Governor in recent memory who has flipped this unhealthy dynamic and has appropriated funding from the State budget to assist utility ratepayers. More than \$500 million to date has been appropriated, and you have leveraged the appropriations to reduce utility arrears and strengthen our utility discount programs. Utilities must not be allowed to now upend that progress for ratepayers with exorbitant rate hikes.

Working with you as the Chair of the Public Service Commission and the CEO of the Department of Public Service, we have partnered to expand our utility affordability programs, advance a responsible clean energy transition, improve utility performance by making strategic investments in resilience and reliability, and hold utilities accountable through your strong enforcement initiatives. Rate cases understandably must account for both the needs of the system and the needs of the customers. Right now, affordability is our greatest short-term challenge and the Department of Public Service must take all necessary steps to protect ratepayers from Con Edison's unconscionable rate hike.

I have confidence in the expert staff of the Department to fully review and analyze Con Edison's rate request to safeguard New Yorkers. Quite simply, this request by Con Edison cannot stand as proposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Hochul".

Governor Kathy Hochul