

March 10, 2025

Hon. Rory Christian, CEO  
New York State Department of Public Service  
Agency Building 3  
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Doreen M. Harris, President and CEO  
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority  
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CEO Christian and President Harris:

President Trump's reckless tariffs on Canadian energy imports will be a direct financial hit to New Yorkers, driving up utility costs, disrupting energy markets, and creating uncertainty for businesses and families. In response, Ontario has announced retaliatory tariffs on electricity exports, escalating the crisis and threatening the reliability of our energy supply. We are calling on the federal government and Ontario to immediately reverse these harmful policies and are directing New York State agencies to conduct an urgent review to ensure transparency on the real cost to consumers.

On March 4, 2025, at 12:01 AM, President Trump instigated a trade war with Canada and Mexico by implementing a 25% tariff on imports, with a 10% tariff on energy resources from Canada. This represents a direct attack on New Yorkers' wallets. These tariffs will drive up utility bills, disrupt energy markets, and create uncertainty for businesses and families alike. They are not only economically harmful but also dangerously short-sighted. Worse yet, the policy is so poorly written that it remains unclear whether electricity imports are subject to the tariff, leaving our grid operators and utilities in limbo. This is unacceptable.

On March 6, 2025, President Trump indicated he would provide a one-month exemption on tariffs for goods covered by the United States-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement. However, the tariff on energy remains. In response, Canada's Ontario Premier, Doug Ford, announced on March 7 that they would impose a 25% surcharge on electricity exports to the U.S. starting on March 10.

A prolonged trade war has the potential to disrupt the flow of natural gas and electricity from Canada, disruptions which may result in broader reliability implications for utility customers on both sides of the border. It is unfortunate that we must now consider reliability contingencies should the century-long energy partnership between New York and Canada be destroyed due to President Trump's harmful, short-sighted actions.

To address this, the New York State Department of Public Service (NYS DPS) and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) should require that all New York utilities clearly communicate to consumers any increase in cost due to President Trump's tariffs and Canadian retaliation. To begin that process, we urge NYS DPS and NYSERDA to conduct an urgent review of these tariffs' impacts and provide a transparent accounting of their effects on energy prices and supply reliability in New York.

Critically, we are calling on President Trump to rescind these tariffs immediately. If he refuses, Republicans in Congress must act to overturn them before they inflict further damage on working families and businesses. Additionally, the federal government must be transparent about how this decision was made and what analysis, if any, was conducted on its impact. New Yorkers deserve answers, not excuses.

At the state level, the Governor's office is directing the NYS DPS, NYSEERDA, and New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) to conduct an expeditious review of these tariffs' impacts and provide a transparent accounting of their effects on energy prices and supply reliability. Specifically, this review will include:

1. A comprehensive analysis of how these tariffs will increase costs for electricity, natural gas, heating fuels, and other essential energy sources across the state;
2. An assessment of supply chain vulnerabilities, particularly for communities in the North Country and other areas with limited alternatives;
3. A clear evaluation of the impact on ratepayers and businesses, including expected price increases and affordability concerns;
4. A review of New York's contingency plans in the event Canada retaliates by restricting energy exports; and
5. An examination of the feasibility of adding a one-line "Trump Tariff" cost indicator on utility bills, ensuring that New Yorkers can see exactly how much this federal policy is costing them each month.

The people of New York deserve transparency and accountability. We urge NYS DPS, NYSEERDA, and DHSES to complete an initial analysis within seven days, with a full report and recommendations to follow. We will not allow President Trump and Congressional Republicans to play politics with our energy security while hardworking New Yorkers foot the bill.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my staff.

Sincerely,



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Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



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Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York

CC: Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America  
Jackie Bray, Commissioner of the New York State Division of Homeland Security and  
Emergency Services