



October 24, 2025

Rory M. Christian
Chair and CEO, New York State Department of Public Service
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 3
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Re: Request for In-Person Public Hearing on Proposed Rate Increases
Case Numbers: 25-E-0375 (Electric) and 25-G-0378

Dear Chairman Christian,

We respectfully request that the New York State Public Service Commission hold at least one and hopefully several in-person public hearings in northern Westchester and Putnam counties regarding the proposed electricity and natural gas rate increases submitted by New York State Electric & Gas.

The huge proposed increases, 35% for electricity and 39.4% for natural gas, come at a time when many households across our districts are struggling under the weight of a persistent and unequal economic recovery. Families and individuals are still facing high costs for housing, food, healthcare, and other essentials. For many, any increase in utility rates represents not just an inconvenience, but a genuine hardship.

In addition, we would like to draw your attention to a recent report by Renewable Heat Now, which was published in LoHud, which says that NYSEG profits skyrocketed by 185% in the last 10 years and just last year alone the company recovered \$387 million in profits.

This raises serious questions about the justification for additional rate hikes, particularly when weighed against the financial strain on customers. Ratepayers should not be asked to bear a greater burden while investor-owned utilities report record earnings.

An in-person hearing will ensure that all affected members of the public - including those without reliable internet access or lack the technological knowledge - have a fair opportunity to voice their concerns directly to the Commission. It is a matter of transparency, accessibility, and equity. We also ask that Spanish translation be provided at the hearings because of a large Hispanic population in our districts who may want to participate.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I urge the Commission to take these concerns seriously and to provide the public with an opportunity for meaningful, in-person engagement. Thank you for your consideration.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,
Pete Harckham
New York State Senator
40th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Harckham".

Matt Slater,
New York State Assemblyman
94th District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Slater".