

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 20, 2025

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

Dear CEO Christian,

We write to express our objection to Consolidated Edison's (Con Edison's) recent request to raise electric rates by 11.4% and natural gas rates by 13.3%.¹ While Con Edison reported higher-than-expected profits in Q3 2024, working-class New Yorkers are already struggling with extraordinary burdens due to years of high prices.² These rate hikes will only make it harder to make ends meet or, worse, lead to devastating shutoffs.

In December 2024, Con Edison's own reports show that approximately 460,000 households were behind on their utility bills for a total of \$948 million.³ In 2023, the New York Public Service Commission already approved a rate hike that will see the average bill rise about 12% over three years for residential electric customers across Con Edison's service territory in New York City and Westchester county, and an estimated 20% over three years for residential gas customers in The Bronx, Manhattan and northern Queens.⁴

In response to inflationary pressures created by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russian invasion of Ukraine, which caused global energy prices to rise, we worked tirelessly over the past four years to pass the American Rescue Plan Act and Inflation Reduction Act. These historic investments included increased utility accessibility, affordability, and grid resilience through investments in programs such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP), Home Electrification and Efficiency Rebates Programs, and the Department of Energy Grid Deployment Office, among others. These investments have in turn led to a decrease in inflation, interest rates, and energy costs.⁵ Hiking rates now is inconsistent with the recovery we have worked so hard to achieve.

¹ Cunningham, Jessica. 2025. "NJ Electric Bills May Increase 20%, While Con Ed Set to Raise Rates in NY: Here's Why." NBC New York. February 14, 2025. <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nj-electric-bills-increase-con-edison-raise-rates-ny/6151133/>.

² Reuters Staff. 2024. "Consolidated Edison Reports Third-Quarter Profit Beat on Higher Rates." Reuters, November 7, 2024. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/consolidated-edison-reports-third-quarter-profit-beat-higher-rates-2024-11-07/>.

³ Case 91-M-0744, Department of Public Service, which contains energy utility monthly collections reports, <https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=91-M-0744>

⁴ Maldonado, Samantha. 2025. "Con Ed Wants to Raise Your Bill — Again." THE CITY - NYC News. February 11, 2025. <https://www.thecity.nyc/2025/02/11/con-ed-rate-hike-utility-bill-hochul>.

⁵ "U.S. Wholesale Electricity Prices Were Lower and Less Volatile in 2024 - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)." 2024. Eia.gov. 2024. <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=64284>.

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We request that the current proposal to raise rates be rejected and that Con Edison return to the drawing board to identify a better proposal.

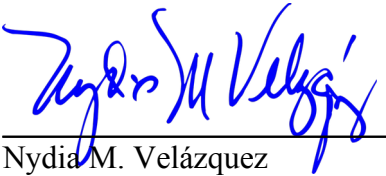
Sincerely,



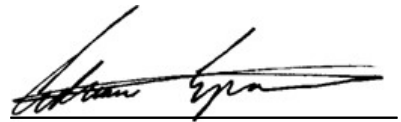
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



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