

November 2017

Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess
Secretary to the Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 3
Albany, NY 12223-1350

RE: Residential Fixed Customer Charges

Dear Commissioners Rhodes, Sayre, Burman, and Alesi:

The undersigned 131 signatories are elected officials representing cities, towns, and counties in upstate New York. We appreciate the important work the Public Service Commission is doing to implement much needed utility and energy reform as part of the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV). However, ever increasing energy costs continue to burden our residents and small businesses.

A major driver of these costs are stubbornly high fixed charges for electricity, which customers must pay every month regardless of how much energy they use. **We write to urge you to reduce these high fixed charges.** These charges greatly constrain the ability of our residents and small businesses to control their energy bills by using less or by installing renewable energy systems like solar PV, and as such, are contrary to the Governor's REV initiative and clean energy goals. High fixed charges also shift costs from bigger energy users to more vulnerable populations. They are particularly burdensome for the low and moderate income members of our communities, who tend to use less energy than average and pay a disproportionate amount of their income toward these high fixed charges. New York needs electricity pricing that works to alleviate this problem, not worsen it.

Utilities in New York have very high fixed charges compared to other states. For example, National Grid has a residential fixed charge of \$17 in New York, but only \$5 in Rhode Island and \$5.50 in Massachusetts. In Central Hudson territory, residential customers have even higher fixed charges at \$24—the highest in the state—and the company is now seeking to increase these charges to \$25, as well as introduce a new tiered “service size charge” for many customers. Fixed charges in New York are higher than in all neighboring states, and impose an unacceptable burden on our communities.

While the Commission should be commended for denying utilities' requests to increase fixed charges in recent years, we urge you to now join states like Connecticut in seeking to reduce them. A major reduction in residential fixed charges in the current National Grid and Central Hudson rate cases would benefit a majority of residential customers by lowering their bills, and would particularly help low-usage customers, which typically include low- and moderate-income households, seniors, the disabled, and conservation-minded customers. Reducing the fixed charge to below \$10 would make New York a national leader on this issue and would help the state meet its energy and environmental goals.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to protecting the ratepayers of New York.

Sincerely,

Doug Bullock, County Legislator, Albany County (National Grid)

William Reinhardt, County Legislator, Albany County (National Grid)
 Francena Amparo, Assistant Minority Leader, Dutchess County (Central Hudson)
 Joseph Incoronato, County Legislator, Dutchess County (Central Hudson)
 Joel Tyner, County Legislator, Dutchess County (Central Hudson)
 Micki Strawinski, County Legislator, Dutchess County (Central Hudson)
 Chad Davis, County Legislator, Oneida County (National Grid)
 Michael P. Sweeton, President, Orange County Association of Towns, Villages and Cities,
 Orange County (Orange & Rockland, Central Hudson)
 Dooley Shooley Kiefer, County Legislator, Tompkins County (NYSEG)
 Martha Robertson, Legislator, Tompkins County (NYSEG)
 Shawna Black, Legislator, Tompkins County (NYSEG)
 Carol Chock, Legislator, Tompkins County (NYSEG)
 Chris Allen, County Legislator, Ulster County (Central Hudson)
 Hector Rodriguez, County Legislator, Ulster County (Central Hudson)
 Jonathan Heppner, County Legislator, Ulster County (Central Hudson)
 Manna Jo Greene, County Legislator, Ulster County (Central Hudson)
 Jim Delaune, County Legislator, Ulster County (Central Hudson)
 Jennifer Schwartz Berky, County Legislator, Ulster County (Central Hudson)
 Tracey Bartels, County Legislator, Ulster County (Central Hudson)
 Vincent DeSantis, Town Councilman, City of Gloversville (National Grid)
 Tiffany Martin Hamilton, Mayor, City of Hudson (Central Hudson)
 Steve Noble, Mayor, City of Kingston (Central Hudson)
 Jean Kessner, Councilor-at-Large, City of Syracuse (National Grid)
 Christopher Cannon, Town Councilman, Town of Arkwright (National Grid)
 Dawn Ryder, Town Councilman, Town of Bethel (NYSEG)
 Daniel Joyce, Town Councilman, Town of Cairo (Central Hudson)
 Irene Weiser, Town Councilwoman, Town of Caroline (NYSEG)
 Mark Witmer, Town of Caroline, Supervisor (NYSEG)
 Doreen Davis, Town Supervisor, Town of Catskill (Central Hudson)
 Damian Ulatowski, Supervisor, Town of Clay (National Grid)
 Dean Michael, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Clinton (Central Hudson, NYSEG)
 Raymon Oberly, Town Supervisor, Town of Clinton (Central Hudson, NYSEG)
 Richard Onufer, Supervisor, Town of Constable (NYSEG, National Grid)
 Richard K. Hanse, Town Supervisor, Town of Coxsackie (Central Hudson)
 Rebecca Brenner, Deputy Supervisor & Councilperson, Town of Danby (NYSEG)
 Gregory Vurckio, Councilman, Town of Denning (Central Hudson)
 Kevin Smith, Councilman, Town of Denning (Central Hudson)
 Mike Dean, Councilman, Town of Denning (Central Hudson)
 Paul Schoonmaker, Councilman, Town of Denning (Central Hudson)
 David Brooks, Supervisor, Town of Denning (Central Hudson)
 Kerin J. Rigney, Town Board Member, Town of DeWitt (National Grid)
 Jason M. Leifer, Esq., Supervisor, Town of Dryden (NYSEG)
 Deborah Cipolla-Dennis, Council Member, Town of Dryden (NYSEG)
 Kathy Servoss, Council Member, Town of Dryden (NYSEG)
 Dan Lamb, Council Member, Town of Dryden (NYSEG)
 Wayne Freer, Councilman, Town of Esopus (Central Hudson)
 Diane L. McCord, Supervisor, Town of Esopus (Central Hudson)
 Katherine Barnhart, Town Board Member, Town of Forestburgh (NYSEG)
 David Dukler, Councilman, Town of Gardiner (Central Hudson)
 John Hinson, Councilman, Town of Gardiner (Central Hudson)
 Mike Reynolds, Councilman, Town of Gardiner (Central Hudson)

Laura Faye Walls, Councilwoman, Town of Gardiner (Central Hudson)
Mary Beth Majestic, Supervisor, Town of Gardiner (Central Hudson)
Gordon McClelland, Conservation Council Member, Town of Guilderland (National Grid)
David Kukle, Councilman, Town of Hunter (Central Hudson)
Dolph Semenza, Councilman, Town of Hunter (Central Hudson)
John Dittus, Councilman, Town of Hurley (Central Hudson)
John Gill, Councilman, Town of Hurley (Central Hudson)
Barbara Zell, Councilwoman, Town of Hurley (Central Hudson)
Janet Briggs, Councilwoman, Town of Hurley (Central Hudson)
Gary S. Bellows, Supervisor, Town of Hurley (Central Hudson)
Bill Goodman, Supervisor, Town of Ithaca (NYSEG)
Pamela Bleiwas, Town Board Member, Town of Ithaca (NYSEG)
Bradley Jenkins, Town Councilman, Town of Lexington (Central Hudson)
Jeffrey Paladino, Councilman, Town of Lloyd (Central Hudson)
Joe Mazzeti, Councilman, Town of Lloyd (Central Hudson)
Kevin Brennie, Councilman, Town of Lloyd (Central Hudson)
Michael Guerriero, Councilman, Town of Lloyd (Central Hudson)
Paul J. Hansut, Supervisor, Town of Lloyd (Central Hudson)
Douglas Adams, Councilman, Town of Marbletown (Central Hudson)
Joe Borzumato, Councilman, Town of Marbletown (Central Hudson)
Patricia Clarke, Councilwoman, Town of Marbletown (Central Hudson)
Michael E. Warren, Supervisor, Town of Marbletown (Central Hudson)
Tim Sweeney, Councilman, Town of Marbletown (Central Hudson)
Allan Koenig, Councilman, Town of Marlborough (Central Hudson)
Edward Molinelli, Councilman, Town of Marlborough (Central Hudson)
Howard Baker, Councilman, Town of Marlborough (Central Hudson)
Scott Corcoran, Councilman, Town of Marlborough (Central Hudson)
Alphonso Lanzetta, Supervisor, Town of Marlborough (Central Hudson)
William F. Gallagher, Supervisor, Town of Milan (Central Hudson)
Christopher Mathews, Supervisor, Town of Neversink, (Central Hudson, NYSEG)
Nicholas A. Dellisanti, Supervisor, Town of New Baltimore (NYSEG)
Colleen Teal, Supervisor, Town of New Lebanon (NYSEG)
Neil Bettez, Supervisor, Town of New Paltz (Central Hudson)
Daniel Torres, Town Councilman, Town of New Paltz (Central Hudson)
Jeff Logan, Town Councilman, Town of New Paltz (Central Hudson)
Marty Irwin, Town Councilman, Town of New Paltz (Central Hudson)
Julie Seyfert Lillis, Town Councilwoman, Town of New Paltz (Central Hudson)
George Kaye, Supervisor, Town of North East (Central Hudson)
Andrew L Boggess, Town Board Member, Town of Olive (Central Hudson)
Bennett Sandler, Town Councilman, Town of Otsego (NYSEG)
Sarah Jones, Town Board Member, Town of Pine Plains (Central Hudson)
Dean A. DePew Sr., Councilman, Town of Plattekill (Central Hudson)
Lawrence Farrelly, Councilman, Town of Plattekill (Central Hudson)
Michael Putnam, Councilman, Town of Plattekill (Central Hudson)
Cynthia Delgado, Councilwoman, Town of Plattekill (Central Hudson)
Joseph Croce, Supervisor, Town of Plattekill (Central Hudson)
Christopher Schaeffer, Town Councilman, Town of Pomfret (National Grid)
Jon J Baisley, Supervisor, Town of Poughkeepsie (Central Hudson)
Sarah Imboden, Councilperson, Town of Red Hook (Central Hudson)
Carl Chipman, Supervisor, Town of Rochester (Central Hudson)
Allegra Schecter, Town Councilperson, Town of Roseboom (National Grid)

Chris Pryslopski, Councilman, Town of Rosendale (Central Hudson)
Frank Klepeis, Councilman, Town of Rosendale (Central Hudson)
John Hughes, Councilman, Town of Rosendale (Central Hudson)
Jen Metzger, Councilwoman, Town of Rosendale (Central Hudson)
Jeanne L. Walsh, Supervisor, Town of Rosendale (Central Hudson)
Michael Kolczynski, Supervisor, Town of Savannah (NYSEG)
Gary Mutchler, Supervisor, Town of Scipio (NYSEG)
Peter DiSclafani, Town Councilman, Town of Shandaken (NYSEG)
Faye Storms, Town Councilwoman, Town of Shandaken (NYSEG)
Cheryl Rogers, Town Clerk/Collector, Town of Taghkanic (NYSEG)
Elizabeth Thomas, Supervisor, Town of Ulysses (NYSEG)
David B. McMorris, Councilman, Town of Union Vale (Central Hudson)
Corrina Kelley, Town Board Member, Town of Union Vale (Central Hudson)
Gary E. Ciferri, Supervisor, Town of Washington (Central Hudson)
Leonard M. Distel, Supervisor, Town of Wawarsing (Central Hudson)
Jay Wenk, Councilman, Town of Woodstock (Central Hudson)
William McKenna, Supervisor, Town of Woodstock (Central Hudson)
Diane Pusateri, Trustee, Village of Churchville,
Lou Allstadt, Trustee, Village of Cooperstown (NYSEG)
Tim Rogers, Mayor, Village of New Paltz (Central Hudson)
Dennis Young, Trustee, Village of New Paltz (Central Hudson)
Don Kerr, Trustee, Village of New Paltz (Central Hudson)
KT Tobin, Trustee, Village of New Paltz (Central Hudson)
William "Bill" Murray, Trustee, Village of New Paltz (Central Hudson)
John Codman III, Trustee, Village of Ossining (Con Edison)⁴
William E Murphy, Mayor, Village of Saugerties (Central Hudson)
Joel L. Griffith, Mayor, Village of Tivoli (Central Hudson)
William B. Magnarelli, NY Assembly, 129th District
Timothy M. Kennedy, NY Senate, 63rd District