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THE SENATE  
 STATE OF NEW YORK



**TONY AVELLA**  
**SENATOR, 11TH DISTRICT**

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2012 JUL 24 PM 3:33

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July 24, 2012

**BY FAX & FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo  
 Governor  
 Executive Chamber  
 State Capitol  
 Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Jaclyn A. Brilling  
 Secretary  
 New York State Public Service Commission  
 Agency Building 3  
 Empire State Plaza  
 Albany, NY 12223-1350

Re: Con Edison Labor Dispute

Dear Governor Cuomo & Secretary Brilling,

I am contacting you regarding the on-going labor dispute between Con Edison and its union employees.

In a harsh and premature action, Con Edison chose to lock out more than 8,000 unionized employees during a protracted labor dispute over their collective bargaining agreement on July 1, 2012. This lock out is now in its 24<sup>th</sup> day and it appears that Con Edison and the union are no closer to an agreement. It is also my understanding that the union has called on the PSC to address what they deem to be a violation of regulatory obligations by Con Edison.

Many union members and their families are facing severe financial hardship despite access to limited unemployment benefits and are facing imminent cancellation of their health care coverage. The loss of healthcare coverage alone can lead to financial jeopardy for each of these families especially those who may have special needs children. Furthermore, the resulting unemployment applications are costing the state upwards of *3 million dollars per week* given the more than 8,000 employees entitled to approximately \$400/week unemployment benefits.

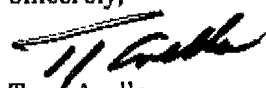
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I believe that you should each use your formidable influence to urge Con Edison to end the lock out and allow the union members to return to work which members have stated they are ready, willing and able to do. While I do not profess to be an expert in labor negotiations, it seems overly harsh for an entity such as Con Edison to place the union members and their families under such duress for such an extended period of time and to put the public's health and safety at risk in the process in the midst of continuing heat and air quality emergencies.

Sincerely,



Tony Avella

State Senator

11<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

Cc: Chairman Garry A. Brown  
Commissioner Patricia L. Acampora  
Commissioner Robert E. Curry, Jr.  
Commissioner Maureen F. Harris, Esq.  
Commissioner James L. Larocca