

1 4/8/2025 - 25-E-0072; 25-G-0073 - Public Statement Hearing

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

4 CASE 25-E-0072, Proceeding on Motion of the  
5 Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and  
6 Regulations of Consolidated Edison Company of New  
7 York, Inc. for Electric Service, and  
8 CASE 25-G-0073, Proceeding on Motion of the  
9 Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and  
10 Regulations of Consolidated Edison Company of New  
11 York, Inc. for Gas Service.

12

13 PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING

14 DATE: APRIL 8, 2025 AT 1:00 P.M.

15 LOCATION: Webex

16 BEFORE: ALJ JAMES COSTELLO

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20 Reported by Nwamaka Dawson

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2 (The hearing commenced at 1:00 p.m.)

3 A.L.J. COSTELLO: If we're on the  
4 record, I call case 25-E-0072, Proceeding on Motion  
5 of the Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and  
6 Regulations of Consolidated Edison Company of New  
7 York, Inc. for Electric Service, and case 25-G-0073,  
8 Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to the  
9 Rates, Charges, Rules and Regulations of Consolidated  
10 Edison Company of New York, Inc. for Gas Service.

11 Good afternoon, everyone. My name is  
12 James Costello. I am an administrative law judge at  
13 the Department of Public Service. I'm accompanied  
14 today by Administrative Law Judges Tara Kersey and  
15 Nicholas Planty, who are also, with me, responsible  
16 for presiding over the hearings in these cases and  
17 the development of a complete record in these  
18 proceedings.

19 Assisting us today are Sangeetha  
20 Kailas and Esmin Brown-Anderson from the Department's  
21 Office of Consumer Services. We are all here for a  
22 public statement hearing that was noticed on March  
23 11th, 2025. We will be holding additional virtual  
24 public statement hearings this evening starting at  
25 5:30 p.m. and tomorrow starting at 1:00 p.m. and 5:30

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2 p.m. In addition, we will be scheduling various in-  
3 person public statement hearings throughout Con  
4 Edison service territory. A notice of those in-  
5 person public statement hearings will be issued in  
6 due course.

7 I'll now briefly provide some  
8 background information. Con Edison filed amendments  
9 to its electric and gas tariff schedules on January  
10 31st, 2025, proposing to increase its annual electric  
11 and gas delivery revenues for the 12-month period  
12 ending December 31st, 2026.

13 Con Edison proposes to increase its  
14 electric delivery revenues by approximately \$1.6  
15 billion, which represents an 11.4 percent increase in  
16 total revenues, and it proposes to increase its  
17 natural gas delivery revenues by approximately \$440  
18 million, which represents a 19.1 percent increase in  
19 total revenues.

20 The actual bill impacts of those  
21 proposed changes on any particular customer class  
22 would vary based upon revenue allocation and rate  
23 design. Under New York State law, the Public Service  
24 Commission must consider a utility's proposal and it  
25 may adopt it, reject it in whole or in part, or

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2 modify it. This hearing is being held so you can  
3 provide your comments on Con Edison's proposals for  
4 the Commission's consideration.

5 The Public Service Commission has  
6 seven members, the Chairperson Rory Christian and  
7 Commissioners James Alesi, David Valesky, John  
8 Maggiore, Uchenna Bright, Denise Sheehan, and Radina  
9 Valova. Three members of the Commission are with us  
10 today, Chair Rory Christian, Commissioner John  
11 Maggiore, and Commissioner Uchenna Bright.

12 So I'm going to turn first to Chair  
13 Christian and ask if you'd like to make any comments?

14 CHAIR CHRISTIAN: Thank you, Judge  
15 Costello.

16 Good afternoon, everyone. I  
17 appreciate everyone joining today for this important  
18 discussion. Public participation and discourse are  
19 essential parts of the process, and I'm looking  
20 forward to the conversation on this very important  
21 matter before us today. So thank you for making the  
22 time to be here this afternoon.

23 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you, Chair  
24 Christian.

25 I'll turn next to Commissioner

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2 Maggiore. If you'd like to make a comment?

3 COMMISSIONER MAGGIORE: Thank you. I  
4 would join in the Chair in thanking everybody who has  
5 turned out today to participate and echo his  
6 sentiment that the public participation in really  
7 anything that comes before us is important. But I  
8 always want to acknowledge the, you know, the  
9 tremendous significance of this item. And so I'll be  
10 listening particularly carefully to what people have  
11 to say, as well as reviewing feedback that comes in  
12 through other means. And again, I want to thank  
13 everybody for turning out.

14 I'm here to listen. You're not going  
15 to hear again from me today. But I very much look  
16 forward to hearing what folks who have signed up to  
17 participate have to say. So thank you very much.

18 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you,  
19 Commissioner.

20 Now I will turn to Commissioner  
21 Bright. Would you like to comment?

22 COMMISSIONER BRIGHT: Thank you, Judge  
23 Costello. I would only say that as the Chair and  
24 Commissioner Maggiore said, these are -- public  
25 statement hearings are incredibly a valuable part of

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2 the regulatory process. So I look forward to hearing  
3 people's comments. And I really appreciate people  
4 taking the time to be here today. So thank you.

5 And I'll pass it back to Judge  
6 Costello.

7 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you,  
8 Commissioner.

9 As I mentioned earlier, the purpose of  
10 today's hearing is to provide you with the  
11 opportunity to tell the Commission your thoughts on  
12 Con Edison's rate proposal. This is not an  
13 evidentiary hearing where you would provide testimony  
14 under oath, nor is it a question and answer session.  
15 It's a forum for you to provide comments.

16 We have a court reporter joining us  
17 who will prepare a transcript of the hearing which  
18 will be included in the official record of these  
19 proceedings. When it's ready, the transcript will be  
20 available on the Department of Public Service's  
21 website.

22 If you are attending but prefer not to  
23 speak at a hearing, there are a variety of other ways  
24 you can bring your comments to the Commission's  
25 attention. Those methods are listed in the March

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2 11th notice. And as indicated in that notice, you  
3 can do so through the Department's website, which is  
4 [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov), by regular mail, or by telephone.  
5 And regardless of how your comments are submitted,  
6 they will be given equal consideration.

7 If you have comments about existing  
8 issues with Con Edison bills or customer service,  
9 which is fine to -- you know, you can make those  
10 comments, but Con Edison has requested that we inform  
11 you that speakers who need assistance with individual  
12 accounts or with customer service issues can contact  
13 Con Edison for assistance -- and I'm going to give  
14 you some information -- at 212-358-3791 or via email  
15 at [assist, A-S-S-I-S-T, @coned, C-O-N-E-D, .com](mailto:assist, A-S-S-I-S-T, @coned, C-O-N-E-D, .com).

16 You would provide the name on your  
17 account, phone number, service address, and the  
18 nature of your inquiry. These methods of  
19 communication will be monitored from 9:00 a.m.  
20 through 10:00 p.m. on April 8th and 9th and through  
21 5:00 p.m. on April 10th and 11th.

22 Con Edison indicates that customers  
23 will receive an initial response within 24 hours.  
24 You can also learn more about your bill and available  
25 bill pay assistance by visiting

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2 coned.com/billassistance. After April 11th you can  
3 contact the company through existing channels which  
4 can be found at coned.com/contactus.

5 If you cannot resolve your issues with  
6 Con Edison you can always contact the Department of  
7 Public Service, customer service helpline at 1-800-  
8 342-3377 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through  
9 Friday. And you can find further information about  
10 the process with the Department of Public Service of  
11 any complaints at the Department's website, which is  
12 again [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov).

13 Okay. We have approximately 86 people  
14 registered to speak at this afternoon's event. And  
15 given that number of registrants, we are going to ask  
16 you to keep your comments to approximately three  
17 minutes so that we can make sure to reach everybody  
18 who has signed up to speak.

19 When I call your name, please speak  
20 slowly and clearly so that the court reporter can  
21 accurately capture your comments for the record.  
22 Please state and spell your name, and if you are  
23 speaking on behalf of an organization, state and  
24 spell the name of the organization.

25 If I call out someone and that person



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2 is not there, what I will do is continue down the  
3 list, and then at the end I will go back -- circle  
4 back and call people that were not available at the  
5 time.

6 What I'm going to ask you to do, and  
7 I'll remind people as we go along, is if you are --  
8 given the number of people we have, if you are  
9 participating electronically and I call your name to  
10 speak, you would please use the raise hand function  
11 on your computer, which is at the bottom part of the  
12 screen. It just looks like a small hand. And if you  
13 are calling in by telephone and I call your name and  
14 you're going to speak, you would hit star 3, so we  
15 can identify you.

16 Okay. So with that we're going to go  
17 to our first speaker who is Kristen Gonzalez. If you  
18 are participating electronically, please hit -- and  
19 people that I haven't called, please put your hands  
20 down. We're not going -- we're going to call people  
21 as I'm calling them.

22 So the first person is Kristen  
23 Gonzalez. If you're on the line, please hit star --  
24 if you're on the line, please hit your raise hand  
25 function. If not, hit star 3. And I'm not seeing

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2 anybody.

3 So the next person is David Imamura.  
4 David Imamura, if you're -- star 3 if you're calling  
5 in and raise hand function if you are on the line.  
6 Again, not seeing anyone.

7 Dayanna Pichardo. And I see --  
8 just -- Dayanna Pichardo, just give us a moment to  
9 locate you and unmute you.

10 Can I ask Esmin or Sangeetha to please  
11 locate Dayanna Pichardo -- her hand is raised -- and  
12 unmute her line?

13 Okay. Your line has been unmuted.

14 MS. PICHARDO: Hello. My name is Anna  
15 Pichardo. I am here representing the 72nd Assembly  
16 District as the assemblyman's chief of staff, and I  
17 will be speaking on his behalf.

18 I will be brief, and I will just be  
19 sharing some points. I have already met with some of  
20 the Con Edison team that serve our District. But --

21 A.L.J. COSTELLO: If you -- I just  
22 want to interrupt for one second. If you have more  
23 than one input or output, please mute that because  
24 we're getting a little feedback issue. So it should  
25 just be the one line that you are communicating over

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2 and listening over.

3 You can continue. Ms. Pichardo?

4 MS. PICHARDO: Okay. Thank you so  
5 much. I have just been unmuted.

6 So the first point I would like to  
7 make is one in four New Yorkers already can't afford  
8 energy prices and a clear majority need policies to  
9 make life more affordable for them. An average  
10 electronic customer could see -- or electric customer  
11 could see their bill increase by over 11 percent,  
12 while gas customers could see jumps of more than 13  
13 percent starting as soon as January 1st, 2026.

14 The State already approved a rate  
15 increase of 12 percent over three years for Con  
16 Edison electric customers in 2023. Before that, in  
17 2020, Con Ed implemented a State-approved electric  
18 rate increase of about 13 percent. And that also  
19 took place over the last three years.

20 And we unfortunately at this time  
21 reject the Con Edison rate increases, and we would  
22 like to audit the company's management and  
23 compensation. At this moment in time we would also  
24 consider revisiting this conversation with your  
25 leadership and the assemblyman as well.

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2 Thank you so much for allowing me a  
3 few minutes to speak on behalf of --

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

5 MS. PICHARDO: -- District 72.

6 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you very much.

7 Our next speaker is Harvey Epstein.

8 Okay. There are various people who  
9 have their hands raised, and I ask that you lower  
10 them. We are going in the order in which people have  
11 registered, and I'm not going to contact or call  
12 people before that.

13 Go ahead.

14 MS. KAILAS: Good afternoon, everyone.

15 Harvey, if you are registered as a  
16 call-in user, please raise your hand. You can do  
17 that by pressing star -- I believe it's 3 or 6,  
18 right?

19 A.L.J. COSTELLO: It's star 3.

20 MS. KAILAS: Star 3.

21 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. We'll circle  
22 back.

23 Zohran Mamdani. Just bear with us  
24 while we unmute your line. Okay. You should be  
25 unmuted, and you can make your statement.

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2 MR. MAMDANI: Hello. Can you hear me?

3 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes.

4 MR. MAMDANI: Hello. Good afternoon  
5 to Judges Planty, Costello, and Kersey, Chair and CEO  
6 Christian, Commissioners Maggiore and Bright. My  
7 name is Zohran Mamdani, and I'm the New York City  
8 Assembly member representing District 36, which  
9 includes parts of Astoria and Long Island City.

10 On March 21st I posted a public  
11 comment online and sent a letter to your office  
12 urging the PSC to reject Con Ed's 2025 rate case in  
13 its entirety and to host in-person public statement  
14 hearings to ensure that as many ratepayers as  
15 possible participate in the process. I have not yet  
16 heard back on that request and am frankly  
17 disappointed in the lack of response. However, it is  
18 not too late to schedule in-person public statement  
19 hearings.

20 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Could I interrupt  
21 you for just one second? As I stated at the outset,  
22 we are going to be holding in-person public statement  
23 hearings throughout the service territory. They have  
24 not been scheduled yet. Once they're scheduled, a  
25 notice will be issued. So your -- there has been

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2 numerous people that have requested them, and they  
3 will be held.

4 MR. MAMDANI: And do you -- have you  
5 made any statement as to how many will be held and in  
6 what parts of the territories?

7 A.L.J. COSTELLO: They're going to be  
8 in every location of their service territory. So in  
9 the five boroughs including Westchester. And  
10 there -- so that's where we'll be holding them. And  
11 when they're scheduled, a notice will be issued.

12 MR. MAMDANI: And how many will be  
13 held? Because my request had a request for two in-  
14 person public statement hearings in each borough, one  
15 in the morning and one in the evening.

16 A.L.J. COSTELLO: We can talk about  
17 it. This is not the time. I'm just letting you know  
18 that we are holding them. If you want, you can call  
19 me. I can provide you with my number offline, or  
20 I'll send you an email, and we can discuss it  
21 further.

22 MR. MAMDANI: Well, I would look  
23 forward to that because that is what was the core of  
24 the request. So thank you for informing me as to  
25 that. I will continue to urge that it be two and it

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2 be at times where all New Yorkers can attend, and  
3 that the locations be wheelchair accessible and  
4 accessible via public transportation with translation  
5 services.

6 Now, to the other portion of my  
7 comment. I am going to also go on record and ask the  
8 PSC to reject this rate case. While I appreciate  
9 that in 2022 the PSC approved a less significant rate  
10 increase than what Con Ed proposed, which in turn  
11 saved ratepayers collectively hundreds of millions of  
12 dollars, my constituents cannot afford another rate  
13 increase. For too many AD36 residents, much like  
14 residents across New York City and Westchester,  
15 utility delivery costs are already set too high,  
16 particularly after Con Ed's most recent rate  
17 increase.

18 Statewide in 2022 1.2 million  
19 customers owed \$1.8 billion in utility arrears. Any  
20 further rate increase, even if approved at levels  
21 lower than what is requested, will only increase  
22 economic hardship and suffering. Many households  
23 will be forced to reduce energy consumption which can  
24 lead to life-threatening conditions in moments of  
25 extreme heat and cold.

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2 The proposed rate hike also increases  
3 Con Ed's return on equity and budgets for a  
4 continuation of excessive executive compensation.  
5 Further reasons to reject the rate hike.

6 I thank you for working with me and my  
7 colleagues in the legislature and our constituents as  
8 we voice our concerns over Con Ed's major rate case  
9 and request its rejection. Thank you.

10 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

11 Our next speaker will be Judah  
12 Holstein. Okay. Your line has been unmuted. You  
13 can make your statement.

14 MR. HOLSTEIN: Oh, thank you. Good  
15 afternoon, and thank you for hearing from us.

16 I am Judah Holstein. I serve as the  
17 Westchester County legislator for District 10. I  
18 want to be clear that I'm not here today in my  
19 official capacity on behalf of the County, I'm here  
20 simply as the elected representative speaking on  
21 behalf of the people I serve, residents who reached  
22 out to me in growing numbers deeply concerned about  
23 what they're seeing on their Con Edison bills.

24 From the beginning of my term last  
25 year my office has been flooded with calls and emails



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2 from constituents opening their bills in disbelief.  
3 The increases they're seeing aren't minor. They're  
4 sharp and sudden. And they're hitting hardest where  
5 it hurts most, working families, seniors on fixed  
6 incomes, and small businesses fighting to stay  
7 afloat.

8 We are concerned about the lack of  
9 transparency. Con Edison has not provided  
10 straightforward answers about how the rates are  
11 calculated and what exactly a customer is being  
12 charged for, why the hikes are happening, and the  
13 company continues to earn enormous profits.

14 Con Edison is still making large  
15 profits. In 2024 the company reported \$1.82 billion  
16 in profit for common shareholders after covering all  
17 expenses and paying out for dividends. And that's  
18 the money left over for shareholders even as  
19 customers are stretched thinner and thinner. While  
20 it's down from 2.5 billion in 2023, it is still an  
21 enormous figure, especially when compared with the  
22 growing financial strain on everyday New Yorkers.

23 Utilities are not a luxury. They are  
24 essential. No one should have to choose between  
25 keeping the lights on and putting food on the table.

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2 And for too many people right now that is exactly the  
3 choice they're facing.

4 So on behalf of the residents of my  
5 District I am requesting that you reject the  
6 increase, demand transparency on the increases that  
7 have already taken place and help us protect our  
8 citizens from having their lights shut off. Thank  
9 you.

10 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you for your  
11 comments.

12 Okay. I see that Senator Kristen  
13 Gonzalez has joined us.

14 Senator, you can make your comments.  
15 Just give us a moment to unmute your line. Okay,  
16 your line has been unmuted.

17 MS. GONZALEZ: Wonderful. Thank you.

18 I'm New York State Senator Kristen  
19 Gonzalez, and I represent the 59th Senate District  
20 which includes parts of Western Queens, Northern  
21 Brooklyn, and the East Side of Manhattan, and I am  
22 calling on the PSC to reject these rate hikes.

23 The PSC has a duty to ensure that New  
24 Yorkers are charged just and reasonable rates for  
25 their energy. Let me tell you, Con Edison's request

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2 for an 11.4 percent increase in electric bills and a  
3 staggering 13.3 percent increase in gas bills is  
4 neither just nor reasonable.

5 We're living through a cost-of-living  
6 crisis. My constituents are struggling to make ends  
7 meet. Seniors on fixed incomes are having to choose  
8 between heating their homes and buying prescription  
9 medication. Small businesses are fighting to keep  
10 their doors open. Especially in this moment you  
11 cannot allow Con Ed to take 2 billion more from  
12 hardworking New Yorkers to pad corporate profit.

13 Con Edison bills are already among the  
14 highest in the nation. If this rate increase is  
15 approved, the average New York City resident would  
16 see their electric bill jump by \$14.13. Gas  
17 customers would be hit with an astronomical \$46.42  
18 increase.

19 Con Ed already generates 15 billion in  
20 annual revenue and operates with a 9.35 percent  
21 return on equity, otherwise known as profit. And Con  
22 Ed has already raised rates three times over the past  
23 three years, with the most recent hike taking effect  
24 just in January.

25 If Con Edison wants to increase their

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2 profit, they need to find energy efficient solutions  
3 that help us meet our climate goals by 2030. They  
4 shouldn't be allowed to simply reach deeper into the  
5 pockets of struggling New Yorkers. The path to a  
6 more affordable New York cannot include these  
7 predatory rate hikes.

8 I stand with Gov. Hochul in calling on  
9 the Public Service Commission to reject this proposal  
10 and urge them to hold an in-person public hearing in  
11 New York City and Westchester to ensure all voices  
12 are heard. Thank you.

13 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Senator, I just  
14 wanted to point out, at the outset of the hearing we  
15 did indicate -- I indicated that we will be holding  
16 in-person public statement hearings in all five  
17 boroughs, including Westchester -- as well as  
18 Westchester.

19 MS. GONZALEZ: Great. That is  
20 wonderful to hear.

21 A.L.J. COSTELLO: So they have --

22 MS. GONZALEZ: We certainly, yeah,  
23 want them to be accessible to every New Yorker so  
24 there is language access, physical accessibility, and  
25 any other consideration. But I'd love to see that

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2 happen.

3 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Thank you for  
4 your comments.

5 MS. GONZALEZ: Thank you so much.

6 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Our next  
7 speaker will be Erika Pierce. Okay. Your line has  
8 been unmuted. You can make your comment. And if  
9 your line is muted on your end, you would have to  
10 unmute it there as well, because we cannot hear you.

11 MR. BERN: I am reading on behalf of  
12 the legislature. I'm Robert Bern (ph.) her  
13 legislative aid.

14 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Could you spell the  
15 name for the court reporter, please?

16 MR. BERN: Yes.

17 A.L.J. COSTELLO: And who are you --  
18 we just started hearing you, so I didn't hear who  
19 you're speaking on behalf of. I guess you're  
20 speaking on behalf of Erika Pierce. And then please  
21 let us know your name as well.

22 MS. PIERCE: This is Erika Pierce, and  
23 I represent Westchester's second legislative  
24 district. Part of my district receives electricity  
25 at Con Ed with a larger chunk receiving natural gas.

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2 I, like everyone here today, am here to share that  
3 the rates are already too high. Residents in the  
4 district frequently send me their bills and the  
5 degree to which they have increased in the last few  
6 years is alarming. Most every bill now has a  
7 delivery component which is larger than the supply  
8 component, sometimes by more than a factor of 3.

9 I receive bill copies from residents  
10 who are away for the entire billing period and yet  
11 still had bills that came in the four figure range.  
12 Con Ed's bills have gone sky high because of a series  
13 of increases, including the most recent round  
14 beginning in 2023.

15 Now, on January 31st, as we all know,  
16 Con Ed filed another 2 billion request to increase  
17 rates, which is what we're here about today. If  
18 approved, the proposal would increase electric bills  
19 by an average of 11.4 percent and gas bills by 13.3  
20 percent starting in '26. This amounts to a 25.1  
21 percent increase on the delivery bill, which we were  
22 just already talking about.

23 As I mentioned, I have more than one  
24 utility in my district, and so I know how unique this  
25 particular set of facts is for Con Ed customers. If

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2 ratepayers cannot pay their bills today and further  
3 cannot reduce them sufficiently by turning down the  
4 heat, et cetera, how are they supposed to pay for yet  
5 another increase?

6 Let me remind you that these  
7 ratepayers cannot choose another utility. They are  
8 stuck with Con Ed. It is crystal -- critical that  
9 you hold in-person hearings in Westchester so that  
10 everyone here, including our less tech savvy seniors  
11 have the opportunity to share their pain and their  
12 stories directly with you. So I please beg that  
13 those get added to your schedule.

14 In reviewing the request for the rate  
15 increase I am left with questions. What  
16 infrastructure upgrades for Westchester ratepayers  
17 are included? As best as I can find there are none.  
18 But this document is not easily accessible, so it is  
19 hard to tell. I don't understand how my constituents  
20 are supposed to be able to understand what is  
21 happening to them if I can't, even with the benefit  
22 of a law department to lean on.

23 We also need to know why it seems some  
24 ratepayers have even larger delivery costs than their  
25 neighbors. And we need to know exactly where this

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2 money is going. Revenue and profits for Con Ed both  
3 are up and its stockholders are doing well. To what  
4 extent is that on the back of ratepayers?  
5 Transparency is critical and yet missing.

6 Electricity is not a nice to have, it  
7 is a need to have. And the current bills are out of  
8 control. We need a better system to make certain the  
9 amount ratepayers are being asked to cover is  
10 appropriate, and we need the PSC to help restructure  
11 the system so that our utilities are being treated  
12 like the public service entities they effectively  
13 are.

14 New Yorkers should not be left to have  
15 to choose between food, medicine, and electricity.  
16 Thank you for your help.

17 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you for your  
18 comment.

19 Our next speaker is Kenneth Jenkins.  
20 If you are participating electronically, you would  
21 use the raise hand function. If you are  
22 participating by telephone, you would hit star 3.  
23 That's Kenneth Jenkins. Okay. Just give us a moment  
24 to unmute your line. Okay, your line has been  
25 unmuted.



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2 MR. JENKINS: Hello.

3 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Hello. We can --

4 MR. JENKINS: Hi.

5 A.L.J. COSTELLO: -- barely hear you.

6 Mr. Jenkins?

7 MR. JENKINS: Is that better?

8 A.L.J. COSTELLO: You're coming across  
9 very low.

10 MR. JENKINS: Is that better now?

11 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes, it is. Now  
12 it's better.

13 MR. JENKINS: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
14 Chairman. Good afternoon. And thank you to the  
15 members of the Public Service Commission for the  
16 opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of the  
17 residents and businesses of Westchester County.

18 As a Westchester County executive, I'm  
19 here today because I refuse to sit silently while  
20 Westchester County residents are asked to shoulder  
21 yet another unreasonable utility rate increase.  
22 That's why I signed this legislation that passed  
23 unanimously with bipartisan support from our Board of  
24 Legislators officially making Westchester a party to  
25 the major Con Ed rate case here in New York State.

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2 Working class families cannot afford  
3 to pay more for an essential service. They are  
4 drowning. I'm here on behalf of all working class  
5 families, seniors on fixed incomes, and small  
6 business owners who are already doing everything they  
7 can to make ends meet. Forcing people to choose  
8 between lighting and heating their homes and buying  
9 groceries is not just their policy, it's  
10 unacceptable.

11 My message is simple. Con Ed cannot  
12 continue to pass their costs on to the backs of the  
13 ratepayers, and certainly not without transparency,  
14 without accountability, and without real  
15 justification. The Public Service Commission needs  
16 to pull the plug on Con Edison's plan.

17 And let me be clear, we absolutely  
18 support the need for reliable infrastructure and a  
19 clean energy future, but that future cannot and must  
20 not come at the expense of affordability. This is a  
21 fight for fairness.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for advising  
23 that there will be in-person public hearings right  
24 here in Westchester County and the five boroughs. We  
25 look forward to working with the Department of Public

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2 Service to an in-person public meeting here in  
3 Westchester. Residents and business owners deserve  
4 this opportunity to ask those questions, get answers  
5 and be heard, not just on paper, not just online, but  
6 face to face.

7 We urge the PSC to reject this  
8 proposed rate increase in its entirety. Westchester  
9 County will continue to push back against this  
10 proposed hike with everything that we have because  
11 our communities deserve better. Thank you so much,  
12 Mr. Chairman.

13 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Thank you.

14 And I just -- for clarity of the  
15 record, I just want -- I'm an administrative law  
16 judge. The Chairperson of the Commission is on the  
17 line, and he's listening to the comments, as well as  
18 two other commissioners, Commissioner Maggiore and  
19 Commissioner Bright.

20 So thank you for your comment.

21 MR. JENKINS: Thank you.

22 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Our next speaker is  
23 Estefany Utterback. If you are participating by  
24 telephone, please hit star 3. And if you are  
25 participating electronically, you would hit the raise

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2 hand function at the bottom of your screen.

3 I am not seeing anyone so I'm going to  
4 move on to Donna Shirreffs. Donna Shirreffs.

5 And as a general -- just a general  
6 statement, if I mispronounce anyone's name, I  
7 apologize. I'm doing the best I can.

8 So Donna Shirreffs, if you're on the  
9 line, star 3 -- if you're participating by telephone,  
10 and the raise hand function if you're participating  
11 electronically. And I do not see anyone.

12 We'll move on to Kelly Verdeschi.  
13 Kelly Verdeschi, if you are participating by  
14 telephone, it would be star 3. I do not see anyone.

15 I'm going to move along to Stacey  
16 Karas. And again, star 3 or raise hand function.  
17 No. Okay. We'll move along.

18 Anyone that I'm calling that -- just  
19 again for the general information that I'm calling  
20 that they're not here now, I'll go -- I'll circle  
21 back at the end and call them again.

22 So our next person is Meighan Corbett.  
23 Meighan Corbett. Okay, your line has been unmuted.

24 MS. CORBETT: Good afternoon,  
25 everyone. I am a taxpayer and ratepayer in Rye, New

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2 York, Westchester County. And we are being burdened  
3 with exceptionally high Con Ed bills. As one of the  
4 earlier speakers mentioned, the delivery charges, for  
5 which you can do nothing, are often three times your  
6 usage.

7 What I'd like to point out to the  
8 Commission and everyone here is Con Ed is not a  
9 utility; it is a publicly traded stockholder company.  
10 They have executives. They have shareholders. There  
11 is a dividend. And quite honestly these people are  
12 doing very well out of the rates Con Ed charges.

13 Now, it would seem possible for Con Ed  
14 to reinvest some of the proceeds of their rates in  
15 making services more affordable, in making storm  
16 sufficient -- you know, what would you call it --  
17 burying wires, providing equipment that will survive  
18 the Hurricane Sandys of today. I myself was out for  
19 eight days after Sandy, and that's a really long  
20 time. I know people were out for two weeks.

21 So I would urge Con Ed -- and I would  
22 urge the County and the Commission to reject these  
23 rate increases and to really look at restructuring  
24 Con Ed so that it's actually a utility and not a  
25 shareholder corporation. Thank you for your time. I

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2 wish you all the best, and I'll look forward to an  
3 in-person meeting here in Westchester.

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you for your  
5 comment.

6 Okay. I'm going to go on. We have a  
7 number of speakers that have registered to speak on  
8 behalf -- or they're employees of SEIU Local 32BJ.  
9 They're all participating on the same -- off of the  
10 same computer. So once I -- I could ask you to just  
11 hit the -- if you're on a computer, the raise hand  
12 function, and if not, use star 3 function. Okay.

13 Just give us a moment to unmute your  
14 line. And again, just as a reminder, we're trying to  
15 ask people to stick to around a three-minute limit.

16 Okay. The line has been unmuted and  
17 the first person that I have listed for Local 32BJ is  
18 Alex Hecht.

19 MR. HECHT: Thank you so much. Good  
20 afternoon. Good afternoon. My name is Alex Hecht,  
21 and I'm a lead researcher at Local 32BJ, the Service  
22 Employees International Union. We're a Union of  
23 180,000 building cleaners, apartment building staff,  
24 security officers, and other service workers,  
25 including 90,000 members here in New York. And we're

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2 here to urge the Public Service Commission to freeze  
3 Con Ed rates so that our members in the City and in  
4 Hudson Valley can afford to stay in New York and  
5 support their families.

6 32BJ first started studying the issue  
7 of skyrocketing utility prices when over 100 cleaners  
8 at Con Edison's facilities in New York City came  
9 together in an effort to join 32BJ and fight for good  
10 jobs. Those cleaners are employed by various service  
11 contractors and many are paid poverty wages with no  
12 employer health benefits. And partly due to their  
13 low pay, some of the workers who clean Con Ed's  
14 buildings told us that they could not afford their  
15 own Con Ed utility bills.

16 But after talking to our members about  
17 this issue, we learned that the problem is much, much  
18 bigger than that. Thousands of 32BJ members are also  
19 struggling to keep up with their electric and gas  
20 bills. These are service workers with good union  
21 jobs paying middle class wages. Our members tell us  
22 they're sometimes forced to choose between paying  
23 their utility bills and paying for other basic  
24 necessities. And if our members can't afford another  
25 rate hike, then New Yorkers as a whole cannot either.

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2 Now, every few years the State and Con  
3 Ed do the same dance. First, Con Ed asks for steep  
4 rate hikes and excessive return on equity. That's a  
5 measure of how much profit a company makes through  
6 every dollar invested by its shareholders. Then the  
7 Public Service Commission holds hearings and  
8 negotiates for months with Con Ed.

9 And finally, the State slightly  
10 reduces the rate hikes and the allowed profits. For  
11 example, lowering the return on equity from 10  
12 percent to maybe a little over 9 percent. And the  
13 State says it scored a major victory for New York  
14 customers. But in reality, a fair return on equity  
15 for a regulated utility like Con Edison would be  
16 closer to 6 percent, not 9 or 10.

17 And that's according to a major new  
18 report by the American Economic Liberties Project.  
19 In other words, this report suggests that Con Ed has  
20 been overcharging New Yorkers for years, to the tune  
21 of what likely amounts to billions of dollars in  
22 excess profit. We're currently investigating and  
23 quantifying these excess profits and will be  
24 releasing a report with our findings soon.

25 Now, we believe it's time to stop this



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2 overcharging. Con Edison can afford to freeze rates  
3 and hire responsible contractors that will provide  
4 good jobs. And we urge other advocates to join us in  
5 calling for a rate freeze. It's not enough for the  
6 PSC to reject Con Ed's initial over-the-top request,  
7 as it always does. To actually deliver for working  
8 families in their cities, the State must freeze the  
9 rates right where they are. Thank you very much.

10 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

11 The next person I have listed is  
12 Yesenia Cruz.

13 MR. HECHT: Give us one moment.

14 MS. CRUZ: Good afternoon. My name is  
15 Yesenia Cruz. I'm a member of 32BJ. I've been  
16 working with them for eight years. This is something  
17 that is -- it strikes me.

18 I'm a mother of seven, and the issue  
19 right now is if they bring up the rate, I am not  
20 going to be able to pay those rates. Even with the  
21 amount that I make, there's no way that I can. I  
22 have my son that's helping me out. My other  
23 children, they have, you know, some form of mental  
24 disabilities that they cannot help me out.

25 I'm just asking please, as a mother,

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2 as a single mother, bring down those rates. Freeze  
3 them. Thank you.

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

5 The next speaker I have listed is  
6 Lashell Grell.

7 MR. HECHT: Yeah. One moment.

8 MS. GRELL: Hello. Good afternoon.  
9 My name is Lashell Grell. I'm from the Bronx. How  
10 are you today?

11 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Very  
12 fine. Thank you.

13 MS. GRELL: I work at Madison Square  
14 Garden. I've worked there for 19 years. And I'm  
15 agree that I'm not -- I'm not able to pay Con Ed.  
16 It's too much for me. I can barely afford to pay my  
17 rent.

18 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

19 MS. GRELL: Thank you.

20 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Thank you for  
21 your comment.

22 MS. GRELL: Thank you.

23 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Our next person  
24 would -- speaker would be Jason Yard.

25 MR. HECHT: Yes. He'll be right up.

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2 MR. YARD: Con Edison expects its  
3 capital expenditure to be 5.12 billion in 2025 and  
4 8.7 billion in 2026. Con Ed has used climate change  
5 as an excuse to raise rates on energy costs in New  
6 York City, like it has in California. If this is so,  
7 what are these costs that justify rate hikes of 11  
8 percent for electricity and 13 percent for natural  
9 gas?

10 Low income families and small  
11 businesses are already considered energy cost  
12 burdened. If you raise the rates now in this time of  
13 inflation on food and many other goods imported to  
14 this -- to the U.S., you will further encumber small  
15 businesses' ability to operate.

16 There's a high affordability crisis  
17 when it comes to housing in New York City. These  
18 rate hikes will be devastating for renters and  
19 homeowners who already have increasing rates to their  
20 rents and mortgages.

21 How you doing? I'm Jason Yard, 32BJ  
22 member.

23 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you for your  
24 comment, Mr. Yard.

25 Our next speaker is Freddy Nunez.

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2 I just ask all the speakers when you  
3 start, please just state your name and spell it so  
4 that the court reporter has it clearly spelled on the  
5 record.

6 MR. ROJAS: Okay. This is Will Rojas.  
7 I'm organizing coordinator with 32BJ. I will be  
8 translating for Freddie Nunez. He's going to  
9 testify --

10 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay.

11 MR. ROJAS: -- in Spanish.

12 MR. NUNEZ: Hello. My name is Freddie  
13 Nunez. I'm 56 years old. I live in the Bronx with  
14 my spouse. I work as a cleaner at Con Edison with  
15 the contractor Nelson at Con Edison's facilities at 4  
16 Irving Place. I've been working there for three  
17 years.

18 I earn 16.50 an hour. The benefits  
19 are bad. I don't have healthcare because it's too  
20 expensive. So I work hard to make ends meet, but my  
21 bills get bigger and bigger. In the past year I  
22 paid -- in the last month I paid 68.65 in  
23 electricity. And recently that bill went up to 109.

24 So a raise hike would affect my family  
25 dramatically. This is why I'm here today. That's

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2 why I'm here today. I can't afford another bill  
3 going up. I'm asking you to say no to Con Edison's  
4 rate hike for me and for essential workers. We need  
5 a rate freeze now. Thank you.

6 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you for your  
7 comments.

8 Our next speaker is Elizabeth Tejada.

9 MR. ROJAS: I will also be translating  
10 for Elizabeth.

11 MS. TEJADA: Hi, my name is Elizabeth  
12 Tejada. I live in Manhattan with my sister. I work  
13 as a cleaner for contractor UBM at Con Edison's  
14 facility at 328 Southard Boulevard. I have worked  
15 there for ten years. I also earn 16.50 an hour.  
16 Benefits are bad. I don't have healthcare because  
17 it's too expensive.

18 I work hard to make ends meet. But  
19 like my coworkers, my bills are getting bigger and  
20 bigger. And in this past year I pay more for rent, I  
21 pay more for my telephone bill, I pay more for food,  
22 and I pay more for transportation.

23 If they raise -- if they do a rate  
24 hike, it would affect my family dramatically. Me and  
25 my sister are only -- it's only us. My sister is

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2 retired. We cannot pay any more. That's why I'm  
3 here today. I can't afford another bill going up.  
4 I'm asking you to say no to Con Edison's rate hike.  
5 We need a rate freeze now. Thank you.

6 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

7 Our next speaker is Braulio Rodriguez.

8 MR. HECHT: Braulio couldn't make it  
9 today.

10 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Oh, okay.

11 MR. HECHT: Yeah, Braulio was not able  
12 to make it today. Thank you.

13 A.L.J. COSTELLO: All right. That's  
14 fine.

15 Then we'll go on to Maria Cordero.

16 MR. ROJAS: I will also be translating  
17 for Maria.

18 MS. CORDERO: Hello. My name is Maria  
19 Cordero. I live in the Bronx with my husband. I  
20 work as a cleaner for Nelson Cleaning Services in Con  
21 Edison's facility at 4 Irving Place. I have been an  
22 employee at that location for close to nine months.  
23 I earn 16.50 an hour.

24 So I also -- the benefits are also  
25 bad. I don't have healthcare because it's too

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2 expensive. I work hard to make ends meet. The bills  
3 continue to get bigger and bigger. In the past year  
4 I pay more for lights, rent, internet,  
5 transportation, and food.

6 If they raise the rates, this would  
7 affect us tremendously. Everything would go up. We  
8 would not be able to buy things. We would not be  
9 able to -- all of our costs of living will go up.

10 That's why I'm here with my coworkers  
11 today. We cannot afford another bill going up. I am  
12 asking you to say no to Con Edison's rate hike. For  
13 me and for all the essential workers, we need a rate  
14 freeze now. Thank you.

15 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

16 Next speaker is Bernard Beliard.

17 MR. ROJAS: Yes. I will be also  
18 translating for Bernard.

19 MR. HECHT: Come right up.

20 MR. BELIARD: My name is Bernardo  
21 Beliard. I have 54 -- I'm 54 years old, and I live  
22 in Queens. I also work as a cleaner for Nelson  
23 System Services in Con Edison's location 4 Irving  
24 Place. I have worked there for close to four months.

25 I also earn 16.50 an hour. The

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2 benefits are bad. I don't have healthcare because  
3 it's too expensive. I work hard to make ends meet.  
4 My bills keep getting bigger and bigger. In the past  
5 year I pay more for food, I pay more for electricity.

6 If the rate -- if they raise -- if you  
7 raise the rates, it would affect me really bad. We  
8 don't earn enough to pay for things now. We need a  
9 better salary, and we're asking for a rate freeze.  
10 And that's why I'm here today. I can't afford  
11 another bill going up. I'm asking you to say no to  
12 Con Edison's rate hike for me and for all essential  
13 workers. We need a rate freeze now. Thank you.

14 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

15 Our next speaker is Antonella Loja.

16 MR. HECHT: Antonella isn't here  
17 today.

18 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Then our next  
19 speaker will be Victor Voice.

20 MR. HECHT: Yeah. Coming right up.

21 MR. VOICE: Good afternoon. My name  
22 is Victor Voice. I live in Jamaica, Queens, New  
23 York. I'm a porter at St. John's University. I'm  
24 here with 32BJ. I've been a member for 30 years. I  
25 make a decent wage, and I've been working for many



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2 years with 32BJ, but as the rent, food, and gas goes  
3 up it's becoming a struggle to live in New York City.  
4 I'm here today to ask for a freeze on the rate.  
5 Thank you.

6 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

7 And our next speaker is Safet -- and I  
8 don't know how to say this, but Ka-gee-da (ph.)?

9 MS. GJIDJA: Yes. Gjidja. Thank you.  
10 Hi. My name is Safet Gjidja. I am a  
11 union member. I would like to ask Con Edison to  
12 freeze the price in order for us to have a better  
13 living with many problems as we're facing in rent,  
14 food, gas prices, and on. You know, we barely could  
15 make it, and I really don't want to live on the  
16 property. Thank you so much for listening.

17 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Thank  
18 you for your comment.

19 MS. GJIDJA: You're welcome. You're  
20 welcome.

21 A.L.J. COSTELLO: And I just would  
22 like to ask the Local if they could use the raise  
23 hand function and lower their hand, so we can go on  
24 to our next speaker. Thank you.

25 Our next speaker is going to be

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2 Westchester County Legislator David Imamura.

3 MR. IMAMURA: Hello. Can you hear me?

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes, we can hear  
5 you.

6 MR. IMAMURA: Thanks so much for  
7 having this. As discussed, I'm David Imamura. I'm a  
8 Westchester County Legislator representing District  
9 12. That includes Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley, Hastings,  
10 Edgemont, Hartsdale, and Irvington.

11 I'm speaking today against Con Ed's  
12 proposed record rate hikes. At a time rife with  
13 inflation, tariffs, and instability, I would say it's  
14 an abomination to ask working people to pay -- to  
15 keep -- more to keep their lights on and their houses  
16 warm.

17 When the CEO of Con Ed is making 60  
18 million dollars a year, and Con Ed is paying out  
19 millions of dollars in share-holder dividends, it's a  
20 disgrace for Con Ed to cry poverty and force  
21 Westchester residents to pay more for basic  
22 necessities.

23 As the commission knows, Con Ed is a  
24 state-created monopoly. Residents in my district  
25 have no choice but to utilize Con Ed. And for Con Ed

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2 to take advantage of their monopoly, to enrich their  
3 shareholders in their singular leadership, is  
4 absolutely unacceptable. I urge the commission to  
5 reject these absurd rate increases and hold Con Ed  
6 accountable for forcing regular people to pay for 16  
7 million dollars in salaries for a single person.

8 I thank you so much for doing this. I  
9 was the chair of estate commission once, and I  
10 remember having 10-, 12-hour hearings, so I know how  
11 difficult it is. But thank you so much for doing  
12 this, and I look forward to seeing you in  
13 Westchester.

14 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you for your  
15 comments. Okay. We're going to go onto our next  
16 speaker. And just as a reminder to everyone, please  
17 state your name. If you're representing an  
18 organization, state the name of the organization, and  
19 spell your name and the organization as well for the  
20 court reporter.

21 So our next speaker will be a Rita  
22 Reynolds. If you are participating by telephone, you  
23 would hit the star 3 button, and if you're  
24 participating electronically, you would hit the raise  
25 hand function on the screen.

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2 Okay. I'm not seeing anyone, so I'll  
3 move on to David Schwittek. Is David Schwittek --  
4 okay. Not seeing anyone.

5 I'll move on to Mark Svensson. Mark  
6 Svensson? Again, star 3 if you're calling in, and  
7 the raise hand function if you're participating  
8 electronically.

9 Not seeing anyone, we'll go on to  
10 Dionne Lewin. Dionne Lewin? Okay.

11 I'm going to move on to Em Chiu, C-H-  
12 I-U. If you're participating by telephone, it's a  
13 star 3. And electronically is the raise hand  
14 function.

15 I'm going to move on to our next  
16 speaker, Mehrak Radparvar. Mehrak Radparvar? Not  
17 seeing anyone.

18 Alan Goidel? G-O-I-D-E-L. If you're  
19 calling in --

20 THE COURT REPORTER: Your Honor, we  
21 have a raised hand.

22 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Oh. Good.

23 THE COURT REPORTER: So I think there  
24 was an earlier --

25 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay, I -- let's --

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2 okay. Please just identify yourself for the record.

3 MS. RADPARVAR: My name is Mehrak  
4 Radparvar.

5 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Could you  
6 just spell that for the court reporter, and then you  
7 can make your statement.

8 MS. RADPARVAR: Sure. Last name is R-  
9 A-D, as in dog, P as in Peter, A-R, V as in Victor,  
10 A-R.

11 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay, and you can  
12 make your statement.

13 MS. RADPARVAR: Most people would  
14 think Con Edison should know who I am because I have  
15 been dealing with Con Edison since 2020 over these  
16 charges of Con Edison, which is absolutely  
17 ridiculous. I've been dealing with the Public  
18 Service Commission since 2020, okay, over all these  
19 over charges. It is absolutely ridiculous that we  
20 have, between the CEO and the CFO of Con Edison,  
21 making 23 million dollars, while every household in  
22 Westchester County and Bronx and New York have to sit  
23 here in the dark because they're afraid of paying  
24 their Con Edison bill because they can't afford it.  
25 Okay, this is absolutely ridiculous.

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2 Con Edison is worse than the mob, and all this green  
3 new scam needs to stop. Okay? It is absolutely not  
4 fair what they're doing to the people and how our  
5 governor is allowing this, the Public Service  
6 Commission is allowing this -- I have gone as far as  
7 speaking to the Federal Trade Commission, Mr. Andrew  
8 Ferguson, okay? It's easier to contact him then  
9 contacting the head of the Public Service Commission,  
10 okay?

11 Most people within New York don't even  
12 realize that you can be in two different households  
13 next door to each other, and you're paying different  
14 rates for the same electricity. That is absolutely  
15 absurd. That should not be allowed, okay? This is  
16 nothing but a monopoly, and Con Edison needs to be  
17 replaced. It is absolutely ridiculous.

18 We are suffering. We cannot pay our  
19 bills. We are sitting in the dark, and nothing that  
20 Con Edison keeps telling you to do is bringing down  
21 your Con Edison bill. Change to LED -- well, LED is  
22 poisonous to the people, okay? We changed everything  
23 to LED. Our Con Edison didn't come down at all.  
24 Instead, it went up.

25 Change your meters. Put TMS Meters

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2 into your house. They're nothing but toxins, okay?  
3 Radiation going through your walls, but no one cares.  
4 Nothing is getting less. Nothing is do -- happening,  
5 except our bills are getting higher and higher.

6 Con Ed is worse than the mob, and it  
7 needs to be stopped. Thank you.

8 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you for your  
9 comment.

10 MS. RADPARVAR: You're welcome.

11 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Our next speaker --  
12 our next speaker is Alan Goidel, G-O-I-D-E-L. If  
13 you're participating by telephone, please hit star 3.  
14 Otherwise use the raise hand function. Not seeing  
15 anyone.

16 And Ms. Radparvar -- thank you. Took  
17 care of that.

18 Okay, Cathy Glass. Cathy Glass? If  
19 you're calling in, please hit star 3.

20 MS. GLASS: Hello?

21 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Hello, is this Ms.  
22 Glass?

23 MS. GLASS: Yes. Can you hear me?

24 A.L.J. COSTELLO: We can hear you,  
25 yes. You can make your statement. Just please state

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2 and spell your name for the record.

3 MS. GLASS: I am Cathy Glass. C-A-T-  
4 H-Y, Glass, G-L-A-S-S, and I represent myself.

5 And my contribution to this meeting is  
6 very short and very simple, but I think it will  
7 resonate with all New York residents. I'm a 76-year-  
8 old widow living with my daughter on a limited income  
9 in a small, 22-square foot house. And my last Con Ed  
10 bill was a shocking 900 dollars.

11 My daughter and I rarely are home and  
12 already keep the heat at 60 degrees. My Con Ed bills  
13 are fantastical, sometimes over 1,000 dollars. Most  
14 New York residents, especially seniors, cannot afford  
15 these services, which are not a luxury you choose,  
16 but a necessity that you must have.

17 I maintain that not only should we not  
18 allow Con Ed to raise their rates, but make it a  
19 mission to find ways to decrease them. I feel, as  
20 many do, trapped in having to use Con Ed, which is a  
21 monopoly with the power to present astronomical fees,  
22 which I have no other option to do but to accept.  
23 This makes me and others feel helpless, frustrated,  
24 and stressed every time I get a bill.

25 I suggest that Con Ed not raise their



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2 rates, they are frozen, but use their healthy profits  
3 to reduce -- reduce their current fees so that people  
4 do not have to sit in the dark. Thank you.

5 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. And  
6 please just hit the star 3 function again so we can  
7 lower the hand, and we can recognize our next  
8 speaker. Ms. Glass, please hit the star 3 function  
9 again. Thank you so much.

10 Okay. Our next speaker will be Andrew  
11 Newman. Andrew Newman, if you are calling in, if you  
12 would hit the star 3 on your phone. If not, you're  
13 participating electronically, you would use the raise  
14 hand function. Okay.

15 Not seeing anybody, I'll move on to  
16 Sheila Collins. Sheila Collins? If you're calling  
17 in, it's star 3.

18 Okay. I'm going to move on to a  
19 Miriam Lugo Pagan. That's Miriam Lugo Pagan. And if  
20 you're participating electronically, it's the raise  
21 hand function, and if you're calling in, it's star 3.

22 We'll move on then to a Danielle  
23 Burns. Danielle Burns? Okay, not seeing anyone.

24 Ainslie Walsh? Ainslie Walsh? If  
25 you're calling in, it's star 3. Okay, not seeing

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2 anyone.

3 Anna Pepa. Anna Pepa? Okay, we'll  
4 move on to our next registered speaker.

5 Ami Aquino? Ami Aquino, if you're  
6 calling in it's star 3.

7 Okay, moving on to Madeleine Mound.  
8 Madeleine Mound? I'm not seeing anyone.

9 We'll move on to Rosa Patino. That's  
10 Rosa Patino. If you're calling in, it's star 3.

11 We'll move on to our next listed  
12 speaker, Suzanne Lester. Suzanne Lester?

13 We'll move on to Robert Severance.  
14 Robert Severance, if you're on -- calling by  
15 telephone, you would hit star 3 on your phone.

16 Okay. We'll move on to Peter Bianchi.  
17 Peter Bianchi?

18 Okay. Our next speaker would be  
19 Gabriela Romero. Gabriela Romero? If you are  
20 participating by telephone, you would hit star 3.  
21 Okay, not seeing anyone.

22 MS. FIELD: Your Honor?

23 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Is there any person  
24 the -- Latifa Field (phonetic)?

25 MS. FIELD: Go ahead.

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2 A.L.J. COSTELLO: I'm sorry, who is  
3 speaking? There's a person on, Latifa Field. We're  
4 going -- we have registered speakers. I'm calling  
5 the speakers in the order in which they've  
6 registered, so I do not have you listed as the next  
7 speaker, so I would ask you to lower your hand.

8 Okay. Gabriela Romero? Okay.

9 We'll move on to Lori Mastrangelo.  
10 Lori Mastrangelo, if you're calling in, that would be  
11 star 3.

12 Okay. We'll go to Gamze Ceylan.  
13 That's Gamze Ceylan.

14 All right. Kimberly Scarsella?

15 And Ms. Fields, I'm not going to be  
16 calling onto you until we get to your name or until  
17 we get through the rest of the list.

18 Okay. Ilan Rabinovich? That's Ilan  
19 Rabinovich. Okay. Just bear with us while we -- you  
20 should be unmuted now, and you can make your  
21 statement. Just please state and spell your name for  
22 the record.

23 MR. RABINOVICH: Sure. My name's Ilan  
24 Rabinovich. I-L-A-N R-A-B-I-N-O-V-I-C-H. Thank you  
25 for the opportunity to speak. I'll try to keep it

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2 brief.

3 I'm not here to begrudge anybody a  
4 profit or tell you to cap anybody's salary.  
5 Everybody's -- I encourage everybody to make a living  
6 as best they can, but I do want to remind you that  
7 the increases that Con Ed has asked for here far  
8 exceed what rent stabilized properties are allowed to  
9 increase rents by in New York, and that has been the  
10 case for several years now.

11 So I sympathize and empathize with any  
12 companies that are struggling with property taxes  
13 irregular to the cost of the state, but I want to  
14 remind you that while Con Ed is a monopoly, that I  
15 have no ability to negotiate with them on rates.  
16 They can set them to whatever they want. I, as a  
17 rent stabilized property owner, cannot raise rents to  
18 match their increases by anything other than what the  
19 city allows.

20 So I would encourage us, as -- as both  
21 as -- both of us to our businesses, I think we should  
22 be going after the state or after city regulators  
23 about reducing your costs, so you can maintain the  
24 margins you feel that you need to maintain, but  
25 coming after rent-stabilized property owners is --

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2 for initial funding -- is problematic.

3 Our Con Ed bills, especially our gas  
4 in the winter months, already exceed our renter role  
5 in the thousands of dollars, and so this is highly  
6 problematic. As Con Ed, as a business, knows, you  
7 can't operate at a loss.

8 Certainly, I realize this is a Public  
9 Service Commission hearing, but I'll also -- I know  
10 we also have a lot of elected officials listening.  
11 When you're at the rent guidelines for hearing later  
12 this year, over the summer, talking about rent  
13 increases and rent rollbacks, remember that it's Con  
14 Ed here that raised the cost of providing housing,  
15 and you can't freeze our rents while you allow Con Ed  
16 to raise theirs.

17 So thank you very much, and I  
18 appreciate the opportunity to speak.

19 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

20 Our next speaker, I see has joined us.  
21 Harvey Epstein? If you're Harvey Epstein, you would  
22 just have to hit the raise hand function. Okay.  
23 Thank you.

24 MR. EPSTEIN: Yeah, they didn't unmute  
25 me yet, so thank you.

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2 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay, sure.

3 MR. EPSTEIN: Thank you for allowing  
4 me to testify here about the proposed rate hike.

5 So we in New York City have a working-  
6 class crisis going on. We've lost 200,000 working-  
7 class New Yorkers in the last decade, and what we've  
8 heard time and time again is the cost of living in  
9 New York is becoming more and more impossible to  
10 maintain.

11 I've talked to residents all over my  
12 district. We represent 140-, 150,000 people on the  
13 east side of Manhattan, and they tell me time and  
14 time again that the reason New York becomes more and  
15 more unaffordable is rent and utilities continue to  
16 go up. And we're talking about a huge rate hike for  
17 Con Ed, when we've -- there's no guarantee that any  
18 of this rate hike will go to clean technology.

19 We've talked about a bill called the  
20 New York Heat, which forces Con Ed to ensure -- and  
21 other utility companies to ensure that all the money  
22 that they're spending is moving towards clean  
23 technology to reduce long-term energy costs. Nothing  
24 in this proposed rate hike or nothing in what you're  
25 proposing to potentially comment on will allow a

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2 commitment to ensure that any -- any upgrades or any  
3 work being done will be done with clean technology.

4 So the question for you to decide for  
5 yourselves is a question about the future of New  
6 York. And the future of New York really depends on  
7 whether people can continue to function and afford to  
8 live here. We just heard from a rent-stabilized land  
9 owner who talks about the inability for him to  
10 continue to pay the costs of the increase, the effect  
11 that it has on his property. So if you hear that  
12 from the landlord, the tenants' position is tenfold  
13 more difficult.

14 If we want to be a city of just the  
15 elite and the extremely low income, that's --  
16 allowing this rate hike to go forward will be exactly  
17 what we'll get.

18 If you actually believe that we need  
19 to have a robust, vibrant middle-class and working-  
20 class New York, the rate hike is not appropriate at  
21 this point. A rate hike just hurts regular New  
22 Yorkers who are experiencing really difficult times  
23 right now with -- cuts are on the federal level.  
24 We're seeing tens of thousands of people losing their  
25 jobs. We're seeing the economy going to the toilet.

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2 And the idea that a rate hike will just be just  
3 another thing that people can be able to swallow,  
4 it's just not true.

5 I've talked to people recently who  
6 have said, specifically just relationship to this,  
7 this rate hike will just push them over the edge, and  
8 they'll have to leave New York.

9 So I encourage you, as you're thinking  
10 through this decision and the impact that it will  
11 have on the millions of New Yorkers, that you don't  
12 agree to a rate hike. You make sure you hold their  
13 feet to the fire, make sure the utility companies  
14 have the responsibility to move towards clean  
15 technology, to reduce our long-term costs, and to  
16 fight for the regular New Yorkers.

17 That is your responsibility, and that  
18 is my responsibility. That is a collective  
19 responsibility. And I encourage you to deny this  
20 rate hike and stand up for regular New Yorkers who  
21 need you today.

22 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you for your  
23 comment.

24 MR. EPSTEIN: Thank you.

25 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Our next speaker



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2 will be Kelly Novak.

3 MS. NOVAK: Hello, can you hear me  
4 okay?

5 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay, yes, we can  
6 hear you.

7 MS. NOVAK: Thank you. My name is  
8 Kelly Novak. That's K-E-L-L-Y N-O-V-A-K, and I'm a  
9 legal aid with the Public Utility and Law Project,  
10 which it's spelled just like it sounds, also known as  
11 PULP.

12 Good afternoon to the commissioners  
13 and to Administrative Law Judges Costello, Kersey,  
14 and Planty. And thank you to the department of  
15 public service for the opportunity to comment today.

16 PULP, for those who are unfamiliar, is  
17 a 40-year-old nonprofit with the mission of  
18 educating, advocating, and litigating on behalf of  
19 New York State's low-income utility customers. We're  
20 an active party in both cases and will be submitting  
21 testimony next month.

22 It is critical that the commission  
23 appreciate how many Con Ed customers are already  
24 struggling to pay their bills and how understandably  
25 nervous and upset they are about the bill increases

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2 to come. At PULP, we speak with these customers  
3 every single day.

4 We have many concerns about how rate  
5 increases will impact low and moderate income  
6 customers across Con Edison's service territory, and  
7 today I'll speak briefly, specifically about Con Ed  
8 customers in New York City.

9 As mentioned in other comments, Con  
10 Edison has estimate that if approved by the Public  
11 Service Commission, the average New York City  
12 residential customer's bill will increase by  
13 approximately \$14 per month on the electric side, and  
14 \$46 per month on the gas side. This could mean an  
15 increase of \$60 per month for a customer with Con Ed  
16 electric and gas service in New York City.

17 So many New Yorkers already face  
18 significant challenges just getting by, and for too  
19 many, paying one bill comes at the expense of paying  
20 another. With the staggering costs of housing, food,  
21 healthcare, and child care in New York City, we at  
22 PULP work with customers every single day who are  
23 literally choosing between which basic needs they can  
24 pay for.

25 Unfortunately, this shouldn't come as

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2 a surprise. According to a report just released by  
3 the Poverty Tracker research group, in 2023, New York  
4 City's poverty rate hit a whopping 25 percent, which  
5 is nearly double the national poverty rate. Two  
6 million New Yorkers live in poverty, and 500,000 of  
7 them are children.

8 According to a recent report by the  
9 Community Service Society in 2023, one third of New  
10 York City's moderate income households endured food  
11 insecurity. One third could not afford childcare,  
12 and 21 percent could not afford internet.

13 According to Con Edison's collections  
14 activities report, as of February 2025, nearly  
15 500,000 customers across the service territory are  
16 behind by 60 days or more on their bill, with a total  
17 outstanding dollar amount exceeding 900 million.

18 We've talked a lot about statistics  
19 today, and I know I've just named many of them, but  
20 these statistics aren't just numbers. They're the  
21 real people and real families of New York. Just this  
22 month, just myself, and a survivor of domestic  
23 violence trying to make it on her own, an elderly  
24 homeowner who's afraid to turn up the heat and is  
25 cold all the time, and a parent of two young children

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2 who's said her utility bill keeps her up at night --  
3 the list goes on, but the one thing they all have in  
4 common is that they're Con Ed customers.

5 For so many New Yorkers, a utility  
6 bill increase of anywhere from 14 to 60 dollars per  
7 month will force painful decisions about which basic  
8 necessities they and their families will have to go  
9 without.

10 Saying all this, PULP respectfully  
11 asks the commission to carefully scrutinize Con  
12 Edison's rate requests to make sure that the rates  
13 customers will be paying are necessary, just, and as  
14 reasonable as possible.

15 Thank you so very much to the members  
16 of the public who came to share their stories today.  
17 We recognize that that is not easy to do. Thank you  
18 for giving us the opportunity to speak on behalf of  
19 the Public Utility and Law Project.

20 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you for your  
21 comments.

22 Our next speaker will be Valina McCoy.

23 And Ms. Novak, I'd just ask that you  
24 hit the raise hand function again to lower the hand.  
25 Thank you.

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2 Valina McCoy, if you're participating  
3 by telephone, you would hit star 3. If you are  
4 participating electronically, you would use the raise  
5 hand function. Not seeing anyone.

6 We'll go on to Kenny Herzog. Kenny  
7 Herzog, I believe you're participating  
8 electronically. There we go. It looks like you've  
9 been unmuted. Nope, not yet. Just waiting to unmute  
10 you. Bear with us. Okay, it looks like you've been  
11 unmuted now.

12 MR. HERZOG: Okay. Are we good?

13 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Sounds good.

14 MR. HERZOG: Thank you. My name is  
15 Kenny Herzog. K-E-N-N-Y H-E-R-Z-O-G. And I am both  
16 a trustee for the village of Tarrytown and lifelong  
17 New Yorker and Con Ed customer. I'm not speaking on  
18 behalf of the whole Tarrytown board of trustees, just  
19 myself.

20 Everyone here has spoken and will  
21 continue to speak eloquently and passionately about  
22 issues of fairness and the unthinkable tradeoffs  
23 millions of New Yorkers must make when calculating  
24 their cost of living. What I want to emphasize is  
25 the need for more transparency from Con Ed about its

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2 own calculations and a clear window into its  
3 processes.

4 For all that the company is investing  
5 in repairs and modifications and despite it's  
6 attunement to shareholders expectations, all of which  
7 has been addressed here as well, it seems to invest  
8 comparatively little in communicating its methodology  
9 to the public and puts the onus on busy families and  
10 individuals to sort through convoluted fine-print and  
11 legalese after the fact to puzzle out why their  
12 utility bills nearly exceed a month's rent.

13 And it's very simple. Give genuine  
14 public advocates, not just industry professionals and  
15 political appointees, a seat at the proverbial table.  
16 Heed their perspective. Empower them to report back  
17 to their communities for input and feedback. Be  
18 forthcoming about how suppliers are selected and what  
19 the downstream implications will be for customers.  
20 And once rates and changes are implemented, be  
21 proactive and plain spoken in preparing them for what  
22 to expect. And be rigorous about reinforcing  
23 accessible customer service.

24 Treat all of us like stakeholders, and  
25 everyone will benefit from a more efficient, reliably

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2 funded, and mutually rewarding utility.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

5 Our next speaker is Elizabeth  
6 McCorvey. Elizabeth McCorvey? If you're  
7 participating electronically, please hit the star --  
8 please hit the raise hand function so that we may  
9 identify you. Just give us a moment. It looks like  
10 you've been unmuted.

11 MS. MCCORVEY: Hello, can you hear me?

12 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Hello, we can.

13 MS. MCCORVEY: Hi. I'm Elizabeth  
14 McCorvey, and I represent the Family Resource Center  
15 of Peekskill. We are an affordable housing not-for-  
16 profit, and I would like to urge Con Ed and the --  
17 and the regulators not to increase the utilities, and  
18 see if Governor Hochul and the county and Con Edison,  
19 can implement some type of subsidies to help our low-  
20 to-moderate-income impoverished clients be able to --  
21 to help them pay the delinquent arrears, like was  
22 given with COVID.

23 So we would appreciate whatever help  
24 that we can get, because if the people aren't able to  
25 pay the higher utility rates, it's just going to

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2 cause them to be evicted for not having utilities,  
3 thus overburdening our county, increasing the number  
4 of homeless people in our local shelter system within  
5 Westchester county.

6 So thank you very much, and I  
7 appreciate you guys doing something to help out  
8 struggling not-for-profit to help the poor.

9 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you for your  
10 comments.

11 MS. MCCORVEY: Thank you.

12 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Our next speaker is  
13 Gail Tierney, T-I-E-R-N-E-Y. If you're participating  
14 by phone, you would hit star 3. That's Gail Tierney.

15 Not seeing anybody, we'll move on to  
16 William Schrag. And I believe Mr. Schrag is  
17 participating electronically. You would just hit the  
18 raise hand function at the bottom of your screen.  
19 Okay. It looks like your line has been unmuted.  
20 William Schrag, you are on the line, and your line  
21 has been -- no. It looks like he may be having  
22 difficulties.

23 MR. SCHRAG: Can you hear me now?

24 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes, we can hear  
25 you.



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2 MR. SCHRAG: Okay, thank you very much  
3 for holding this hearing, and thank you for  
4 recognizing me. I'll be brief. I echo the  
5 sentiments of many --

6 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Can I just -- I'm  
7 sorry. I don't mean to interrupt you, but just  
8 please spell your name for the record so that we have  
9 it correctly spelled.

10 MR. SCHRAG: All right. It's William  
11 Schrag, S-C-H-R-A-G.

12 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. And I  
13 apologize for interrupting you. Go ahead.

14 MR. SCHRAG: It's fine. I was about  
15 to say, I really echo the sentiments of several  
16 elected officials from Westchester where I live, and  
17 Executive Jenkins and legislators do the hosting,  
18 Erika Pierce, David Imamura, and I -- really, the  
19 comment that I have was made about two or three  
20 speakers ago by the widow from, I believe,  
21 Westchester as well, who spoke about her 900- or  
22 1,000-dollar bill.

23 I'm also in that category.  
24 Thankfully, I'm not a widower, but I received a  
25 whopping bill this past year. I thought it was high

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2 last year, but it actually was 50 percent -- not 1-5,  
3 5-0, 50 percent higher in January and February. I  
4 don't understand it, particularly since I wasn't in  
5 the house. My son was here, and he was using space  
6 heaters and a lot of -- to try to conserve energy.

7 To the extent that these bills include  
8 a delivery component, those need to be considered  
9 when rates are set, because they're being passed on  
10 to the consumer one way or the other. So again, I  
11 thank you for the time and opportunity to speak. I  
12 just wanted to give an anecdotal example of something  
13 that I experienced.

14 I urge you to not only reject the  
15 current rate increase, but investigate all elements  
16 of sale -- of bills that are being passed on to the  
17 customers, particularly the delivery component.

18 Thank you very much.

19 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

20 Our next speaker is David Fabris, F-A-  
21 B-R-I-S. If you're participating by telephone, you  
22 would hit star 3. I'm not seeing anyone.

23 We'll go on to Tasha Green. Tasha  
24 Green? No.

25 We'll move on to Marcia Earle, E-A-R-

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2 L-E. Okay. Just bear with us one second while we  
3 unmute your line. Okay. Your line has been unmuted.

4 MS. EARLE: Hello, good afternoon. My  
5 name is Marcia Earle, M-A-R-C-I-A E-A-R-L-E. I am a  
6 resident of the town of New Castle in Westchester  
7 county. I also submitted a written statement to this  
8 body, so I'll be brief.

9 I am just speaking in opposition to  
10 the proposed rate increase. I don't see that it's  
11 justified. It has been heartbreaking this afternoon  
12 to hear the concerns and stories of all the others  
13 who have testified this afternoon, and so I urge the  
14 Public Service Commission to reject Con Ed's rate  
15 increase as unreasonable and not in the public  
16 interest. Thank you.

17 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. And I  
18 just ask, please hit the star -- thank you. You've  
19 taken care of it.

20 Our next speaker is Susie Gevar -- or  
21 Gevar. G-E-V-A-R. Okay. It looks like your line  
22 has been unmuted.

23 MS. GEVAR: Thank you for the  
24 opportunity. I'm a single mother living in Yonkers,  
25 New York. I'm considered middle class, and therefore

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2 unable to receive any subsidies or any assistance on  
3 these outrageous bills. My current bill from Con Ed  
4 has an electricity fee of -- for the supply, \$85.90.  
5 The delivery charge is \$163.46. My gas charges are  
6 \$280.12 for the supply. My delivery charges are  
7 \$631.84. This brings my bill to 1,161 dollars.

8 The previous month, I paid 1,521  
9 dollars. In this particular bill, the usage for  
10 supply of electricity and gas was approximately 350  
11 dollars, and the delivery charges were 800 dollars,  
12 roughly. I basically want to echo what Kenny Herzog  
13 previously stated, in the fact that Con Ed should be  
14 using simple language and transparency.

15 I think Con Ed should be investigated  
16 as well as the Public Service Commission. We have a  
17 monopoly here, and our legislators, our council-  
18 people -- no one seems to be able to even explain how  
19 Con Ed has gotten to this point where we have no  
20 choice in our delivery fees. And yet, they are  
21 twice -- three times the charges of our supply.

22 All Con Ed does is basically advertise  
23 how to be more energy efficient to use something  
24 during off hours. Well, I'm working all day, and I'm  
25 not using as much as Con Ed seems to think I'm using,

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2 and yet their bills are still astronomical. A  
3 coworker of mine had a \$2.50 supply charge, and a 45  
4 dollar delivery fee.

5           Aside from there not being any  
6 transparency, because in their delivery charges, the  
7 breakdown is basic service charge, includes the first  
8 200 -- 2.9 therms, remaining 3.13 therms at a  
9 different rate, and then the monthly rate adjustment  
10 at a different rate, system benefits charge, GRT and  
11 other tax surcharges, sales tax at 4.5, and that  
12 brings my gas charges.

13           What does all that mean? I'm not an  
14 electrical engineer. I'm not any kind of engineer,  
15 and there's nowhere for me to actually get a simple  
16 explanation as to what all that is.

17           In fact, the Public Service Commission  
18 itself, years ago, was contacted by me to them over  
19 six months to try to deal with Con Ed to figure out  
20 my billing charges, and they finally came back and  
21 said to me, Con Ed has agreed to go to zero and will  
22 start fresh because they can't even explain to us how  
23 they came up with these charges.

24           There needs to also be many more  
25 advertisements regarding these upcoming hearings,

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2 because thanks to Shanae Williams from my legislator  
3 at Westchester County, I would not have been aware of  
4 this public hearing. And I have not been aware of  
5 previous public hearings.

6 I also don't feel that a company  
7 should be doing their upgrades for clean energy or  
8 clean technology on our backs. I want a new  
9 refrigerator. Am I going to come to the Public  
10 Service Commission to say hey, can you pay me so I  
11 can upgrade this piece of appliance?

12 Who is looking out for us? Thank you.

13 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you for your  
14 comments.

15 Our next speaker is Tom Pinto. Looks  
16 like you're participating electronically. Please hit  
17 the raise hand function on the bottom right, so --  
18 thank you. Just bear with us one second while we try  
19 to unmute you. Your line should be unmuted. Okay.  
20 We can't hear -- if you -- if you are -- you have to  
21 make sure you're unmuted on your end.

22 MR. PINTO: Can you hear me now?

23 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes, we can.

24 MR. PINTO: Okay. Thank you for  
25 allowing me to speak. I appreciate it.

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2 I would like to frame my comments in  
3 terms that everyone can relate to, and I'm referring  
4 to dollars and cents -- relative dollars and cents.

5 As a lifelong New York state resident,  
6 recently retired after a 40-year career in the  
7 financial services industry, which has never been  
8 confused with low pay, I can tell you that double-  
9 digit salary increases among non-senior executives  
10 were never the norm at firms of which I worked, and  
11 those firms include two one-trillion dollar  
12 companies. So I think it's fair to say that the  
13 large majority of other residents of the state do not  
14 enjoy, or did not enjoy, double-digit salary  
15 increases.

16 In light of this, it is tone deaf and  
17 unconscionable for Con Ed to submit an increase over  
18 10 percent. Likewise, it would be equally if not  
19 more tone deaf and unconscionable for the PSE to  
20 approve it. I therefore urge you to reject it in  
21 good conscience. Thank you.

22 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you for your  
23 comment. Any may I ask you please hit the raise hand  
24 function again, Mr. Pinto? Thank you.

25 Our next speaker will be Sharon

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2 Matzner. Sharon Matzner, if you're participating by  
3 telephone, please hit star 3. And if you're  
4 participating electronically, it would be the raise  
5 hand function.

6 Not seeing anyone, I'll move on to  
7 Patricia Alexander. Okay. Not seeing anyone.

8 Edmund Cienava? It's C-I-E-N-A-V-A.

9 MR. CIENAVA: Yes, speaking.

10 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Could you  
11 please just spell your name for the record, and then  
12 you may give your comment.

13 MR. CIENAVA: Sure. First name  
14 Edmund, E-D-M-U-N-D, last name Cienava, C-I-E-N-A-V-  
15 A. And before I start, thank you so much for hosting  
16 this forum and taking all the slings and arrows that  
17 many of the customers here are speaking about.

18 I think the majority issue that most  
19 of us are seeing is really in the delivery charge,  
20 whether it's for electric or for gas. And it's  
21 within the second tier of the delivery charge where  
22 most of the problem seems to occur.

23 Frankly, I don't even understand -- I  
24 quite -- I understand what it is, but I don't  
25 understand why it's being done. And specifically,



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2 this has been done for quite some time. I looked  
3 back at my old bills, and back in 2017, it was -- the  
4 second tier was a 5 cent charge. In 2023, it went up  
5 to a dollar a charge, and then recently it's 1.33 a  
6 charge.

7 This second tier really assumes that  
8 it's heating gas. I'll be honest with you, there's  
9 no distinction between cooking gas, heating gas, or  
10 any other type of gas. A burn is a burn. So why do  
11 we even have this system? I know why. It allows you  
12 to have different rate charges to create confusion as  
13 to what the bill is.

14 I would simply ask Con Ed, do they pay  
15 an actual use type of charge when they receive gas on  
16 international, national pipelines? Remember, Con Ed  
17 is neither a producer nor a manufacturer of gas.  
18 They're a wholesale and a retailer. They basically  
19 take it from someone else that produces it and sends  
20 it to us.

21 Those pipelines that are charging,  
22 they're not charging them a difference based upon  
23 whether it is for heating or cooking or anything  
24 else. It is a through-put. It's what? It's  
25 through-put through the line.

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2 Now I'm not sure if the Public Service  
3 Commission really quite understands it. I know some  
4 of them are relatively new. Three of them have been  
5 appointed in the last year, and I do notice that many  
6 of them have been posted since the -- 2021, or right  
7 around the pandemic. And it seems like most of these  
8 problems have come about at this point.

9 I should hope that they realize, if  
10 they are -- and many of them have a -- have a  
11 background that seems to be more in -- not in  
12 traditional hydrocarbons, but more specifically into  
13 renewables. And guess what? Renewables account for  
14 8 percent of our overall energy mix.

15 If you were to put that in terms of  
16 blood in your body, could your body run on eight  
17 percent? No. So we need to look past whether we are  
18 creating or taking items that are only for green  
19 energy purposes or not and move past this and look at  
20 things differently.

21 I would suggest relooking at  
22 completely the methodology of billing on a delivery  
23 charge, whether it's gas or electric, and to have it  
24 sub-sectioned out between cooking gas or heating gas  
25 is nonsensical, and again the gas doesn't know the

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2 difference between the two.

3 I appreciate the time, and I  
4 appreciate the effort, and I concur with almost  
5 everyone's sentiment that this is a problem. And I  
6 tell you, I'm looking at a gas bill right here which  
7 was \$2996. Thank you so much.

8 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you.

9 Our next speaker is Joel Dichter.  
10 Okay. Just bear with us while we get you unmuted.  
11 It should be unmuted right now, Mr. Dichter.

12 MR. DICHTER: Good evening, Your  
13 Honor.

14 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Good evening.

15 MR. DICHTER: Yeah. Joel Dichter of  
16 Dichter Law, it's spelled D-I-C-H-T-E-R. And thank  
17 you to Jim and Christian and Commissioners Bright and  
18 Maggiore for attending this evening, and to Your  
19 Honors.

20 I'm ran -- calling, appearing today on  
21 behalf of some 33 municipalities in Westchester  
22 county. This is a first that they have come together  
23 in response to the outcries from their constituents  
24 about Con Edison's bills and the need to participate  
25 and do so.

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2 So we will be a part of the  
3 proceeding, and in my comments today I will not get  
4 into revenue requirement or revenue allocation or  
5 rate design, but rather the real-world impact.

6 For your information and for the  
7 record, the communities that have come together and  
8 retained as to appear in the rate case are the cities  
9 of New Rochelle, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, Rye and  
10 Yonkers; the towns of Bedford, Cortland, Eastchester,  
11 Greenburgh, New -- Mamaroneck, New Castle, Ossining,  
12 Pelham, Rye, and Yorktown; and the villages of  
13 Ardsley, Briarcliff Manor, Buchanan, Croton-on-  
14 Hudson, Elmsford, Hastings and Hudson, Irvington,  
15 Limerick, Ossining, Pelham, Pelham Manor, Port  
16 Chester, Rye Brook, Scarsdale, and Tarrytown.

17 And we have already entered appearance  
18 on behalf of them, and the city of White Plains and  
19 the village of Tuckahoe will shortly be join -- have  
20 voted to join, and pending our resolutions in North  
21 Castle, Sleepy Hollow, Pleasantville, Bronxville, and  
22 Mount Pleasant.

23 So this is, to my experience, an  
24 unprecedented group pulling together to respond to  
25 what is happening with Con Edison rates. We've heard

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2 that rates are going up 11 percent and 13 percent.  
3 And we've also been very interested in these  
4 comments. A lot of the focus has been on delivery  
5 charges. And the base delivery charges are going  
6 up -- that are proposed by Con Edison, much more.

7 For electric, it's 19%. For natural  
8 gas, it's 25.1%. This, of course, will have a major  
9 impact on customers and on their cost of living and  
10 their ability to pay. While affordability programs  
11 are excellent, they do not address the middle-class  
12 and the vast majority of customers. So we would ask,  
13 moving forward, that there be a recognition of the  
14 rising costs, not just of just and reasonable rates  
15 to the utility, but the impact on rising costs of  
16 everything -- of groceries, of eggs, of cars, of  
17 education, of healthcare. All could be factored in  
18 to determine what could be done here.

19 Now the commission has developed a  
20 number of great programs, of forward-looking  
21 programs, but here we ask to consider, in this  
22 instance, whether belt-tightening is required and  
23 balancing those interests to make sure that rates are  
24 fair and -- to customers, and they can have the  
25 ability to pay and stop experiencing such massive

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2 increases as proposed here.

3 Thank you, Your Honor.

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Mr.  
5 Dichter, I just ask that you hit the star -- raise  
6 hand function again too, so we can move on. Thank  
7 you.

8 Okay. Our next speaker is Zainabu  
9 Sesay-Harrell. It's S-E-S-A-Y, hyphen, Harrell, H-A-  
10 R-R-E-L-L. If you are participating by telephone,  
11 please hit star 3. If you're participating  
12 electronically, you would hit the raise hand function  
13 at the bottom right of your screen. Okay. Don't see  
14 anyone.

15 Moving on. Penny Paul Barten? Penny  
16 Paul Barten? Okay.

17 Paul Babych? B-A-B-Y-C-H? Paul  
18 Babych? I see a -- I'm sorry.

19 I see Penny Paul Barten. It looks  
20 like your line has been unmuted. And if you're muted  
21 on your end, you would have to unmute that as well.  
22 We are unable to hear you. It's showing that you  
23 have been unmuted on our end. Okay, we're going to  
24 have -- I'll give you a moment to see if you can  
25 unmute yourself. Okay, we're going to have to move

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2 on. We'll come back to you.

3 So I believe Paul Babych may be on the  
4 line. Okay, Mr. Babych, you are -- have been  
5 unmuted. Again, if you have mute on, you -- we  
6 cannot hear you. So I will wait a moment and see if  
7 you can unmute yourself. And then if not, we'll move  
8 on. We'll come back and try you again. No? Okay.  
9 We'll try you again. You may want to call -- log  
10 back in.

11 Jereme Taveras? Jereme Taveras? If  
12 you're calling in, it's star 3. Otherwise it's the  
13 raise hand function.

14 Not seeing anybody. Rosa DeSoto  
15 Harrison? Rosa DeSoto Harrison? Star 3 or raise  
16 hand function.

17 Moving on, Samantha Kokrhoun. It's K-  
18 O-K-R-H-O-U-N.

19 Moving on, Richard Connolly? Richard  
20 Connolly? If you're participating by phone, it's  
21 star 3. Otherwise, it's the raise hand function.

22 Our next speaker, Emilio Colman.  
23 Emilio Colman?

24 Okay, moving on. Monica Mercola?  
25 Monica Mercola?

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2 Not seeing anybody, I'm going to move  
3 on to Alyssa Couture. Alyssa Couture? Okay, your  
4 line has been unmuted. Please state and spell your  
5 name for the record, and then you can give your  
6 statement.

7 MS. COUTURE: Good afternoon. Can you  
8 hear me?

9 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes, we can.

10 MS. COUTURE: Thank you very much. My  
11 name is Alyssa Couture. I'm a staff attorney with  
12 the Legal Aid Society, Bronx office, their housing  
13 unit. I'm representing a tenant of building 1859  
14 Walton Avenue in the Bronx, New York.

15 I'm not sure if this is the proper  
16 form for this matter, but I would appreciate, if not,  
17 a contact to discuss this matter. I am calling about  
18 a building-wide service turn-off. Con Ed has informed  
19 tenants of this building that they'd be cutting off  
20 services due to the owner's failure to pay their  
21 bills. I have attempted to contact them --

22 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yeah, this is --  
23 this is not the appropriate forum. This is actually  
24 if you have a comment on the pending rate cases by  
25 Con Edison. What you would want to do is contact the



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2 Department of Public Service. If you go onto the  
3 website, you will find contact information, and I'll  
4 ask Esmond, if you have that information handy, that  
5 you could provide the telephone number. I don't have  
6 it offhand.

7 And if not, what I'll do is I have  
8 your name, and if you just give me -- I can contact  
9 you, or you can call me. My name is James Costello,  
10 and I can provide you the correct route to go.

11 MS. COUTURE: I would appreciate that.

12 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Talk to -- yeah,  
13 they have -- they have the wait -- the information.  
14 They're showing it now on the -- so if you call  
15 this -- oh, let's see. No, the 1800 number is not --  
16 okay. So it's -- so for shutoff information, it's 1-  
17 -800-342-3355.

18 MS. COUTURE: All right. When I  
19 called this number, I was told that they would not  
20 speak to me because it was the owner's bill, so I  
21 will try again with the knowledge --

22 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Then try,  
23 also, 1-800-342-3377.

24 MS. COUTURE: Thank you for your help.

25 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay, good luck with

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2 it.

3 Okay. Benjamin Faber? If you are  
4 participating by telephone, please hit star 3. Okay,  
5 not seeing anyone.

6 Yvette Banks? Yvette Banks?

7 Okay. Moving on to Kenneth Rosenblum.  
8 Kenneth Rosenblum? If you are participating by  
9 phone, star 3. Otherwise, the raise hand function.

10 Moving on to a Kathy Glass? Kathy  
11 Glass? Okay.

12 Our next registered speaker is Lativia  
13 Serdiman. It's S-E-R-D-I-M-A-N. A Lativia Serdiman.  
14 If you're calling in, it's star 3, otherwise the  
15 raise hand function.

16 Okay. Moving on to Mary McMillan.  
17 Mary McMillan?

18 Marian Macoletti? Marian Macoletti?  
19 It's M-A-C-O-L-E-T-T-I. Not seeing anyone.

20 We'll move on to Mark Timmerman. Mark  
21 Timmerman?

22 Barbara Pierce? And if you're calling  
23 in, it's star 3. Barbara Pierce?

24 And we'll go to Jacquetta Hogan.  
25 Jacquetta Hogan?

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2 And then the last person we have  
3 registered is Richard Pezzullo. Richard Pezzullo?

4 Okay. We have a -- okay. What I'm  
5 going to do now is just -- I'm going to read through  
6 the list of the names of people who I called earlier  
7 who have not appeared. It doesn't look like anyone  
8 else has joined us, but I'm going to do that, and if  
9 you are participating by telephone, you would hit  
10 star 3.

11 And before I get to that, I see  
12 there's a Linda Gammarati who has their hand raised.  
13 Could you just unmute? You have been unmuted. Are  
14 you -- can you hear me?

15 MS. GAMMARATI: I can. Okay, I'm  
16 here.

17 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Say that again.

18 MS. GAMMARATI: I'm here.

19 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Oh, yes. Okay.

20 MS. GAMMARATI: Okay. Yes, hi. How  
21 are you? I have just a few things --

22 A.L.J. COSTELLO: You're going in and  
23 out. I'm sorry to interrupt you, but we can barely  
24 hear you. Sometimes we can; sometimes we can't.

25 MS. GAMMARATTI: I said, can you hear

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2 me?

3 A.L.J. COSTELLO: No, you have to --  
4 you had it at one point where we could hear you.  
5 Now, we can't. It's so very low.

6 MS. GAMMARATTI: Can you hear me now?

7 A.L.J. COSTELLO: It's very low. Is  
8 there any way you can get closer to the microphone  
9 or --

10 MS. GAMMARATI: Can you hear me?

11 A.L.J. COSTELLO: That's better, yes.

12 MS. GAMMARATI: Okay. Yes, hi. My  
13 name is Linda Gammarati. I live in Valhalla, and  
14 I've been with Con Edison since 1978, and I've always  
15 had level billing. And every year at the end of the  
16 year, my bill was always a credit, or I broke even,  
17 or I got money back. In the last past two years,  
18 especially this year, I have had low electricity  
19 bills, low gas bills that were under a hundred  
20 dollars for both gas and electric. My bills are  
21 outrageous. I am a senior. I live at home; I'm by  
22 myself, and I wasn't even home for almost a month and  
23 a half, and my bills were just ridiculously  
24 expensive.

25 I'm speaking on the behalf for me and

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2 my children who are trying to raise a family. Our  
3 bills are over \$1,500, \$900, and this is actually  
4 criminal. It's actually criminal. I have called  
5 Hochul's office. I was on the phone with Shelly  
6 Bayer's (phonetic) office, and she had said that she  
7 had tried to put a cap on this current year at six  
8 percent and to raise it again next year for people  
9 who cannot afford these bills.

10 And they actually threaten you and say  
11 oh, if you don't pay your bill, you're going to be  
12 this, you're going to be that, whatever the situation  
13 may be. When the CO of Con Edison is making millions  
14 of dollars and we have to be accountable for this,  
15 it's unacceptable, I'm sorry. It's causing people to  
16 move out of New York State because they just afford  
17 it when New Jersey has a lower rate, and they're very  
18 happy.

19 I'm just very upset, and I have to  
20 sell my home and move in with someone because I just  
21 can't afford to live here anymore. That's what I  
22 just have to say. I'm so sorry.

23 A.L.J. COSTELLO: No, thank you for  
24 your comment. And please, can you just spell your  
25 name so that we have it correctly for the record.

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2 MS. GAMMARATI: G-A-M-M-A-R-A-T-I. So  
3 for -- one question I just have is that --

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: We don't -- this is  
5 not a forum for answering questions.

6 MS. GAMMARATTI: Okay. So let me just  
7 say my electric bill for the month of -- this last  
8 past month was \$21, my gas bill was \$89. My total  
9 bill together between the both is over \$500, so the  
10 service fees can't even go any higher than they are  
11 now. It's criminal. It's criminal.

12 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Thank you for  
13 your comment.

14 MS. GAMMARATTI: Thank you.

15 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. I am going to  
16 just call out the name of people who I called earlier  
17 who were not there. If you are participating, just  
18 hit star 3 if you're participating by telephone and  
19 the raise hand function if you're participating  
20 electronically. And I'm just going to read out the  
21 names, so if you hear your name, either hit star 3 or  
22 the raise hand function, and then we'll go through  
23 whoever we identify from there.

24 So Estefany Utterback. Ms. Estefany  
25 Utterback. Donna Shirreffs. Donna Shirreffs.

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2 Kelly Verdeschi. Kelly Verdeschi. Stacey Karas.  
3 Rita Reynolds. David Schwittek. Mark Svensson.  
4 Dionne Lewin. Em Chiu. Andrew Newman. Sheila  
5 Collins. Miriam Lugo Pagan. Danielle Burns.  
6 Ainslie Walsh. Anna Pepa. Ami Aquino. Madeleine  
7 Mound. Rosa Patino. Suzanne Lester. Robert  
8 Severance. Peter Bianchi. Gabriela Romero. Lori  
9 Mastrangelo. Gamze Ceylan. Kimberly Scarsella.  
10 Valina McCoy. David Fabris. Tasha Green. Sharon  
11 Matzner. Patricia Alexander. Zainabu Sesay-  
12 Harrell. Penny Paul Barten. Jereme Taveras. Paul  
13 Babych.

14 Now, I know that Penny Paul Barten and  
15 Paul Babych were on earlier, and we were unable to  
16 get them -- to be able to hear them, so if you sign  
17 back in, please hit star 3 or raise hand function.

18 Jereme Taveras. Rosa DeSoto Harrison.  
19 Samantha Kokrhoun. Richard Connolly. Emilio Colman.  
20 Monica Mercola. Benjamin Faber. Yvette Banks.  
21 Kenneth Rosenblum. Kathy Glass. Lativia Serdiman.  
22 Mary McMillan. Marian Macoletti. Mark Timmerman.  
23 Barbara Pierce. Jacquetta Hogan. And Richard  
24 Pezzullo.

25 Okay. So we've reached the end of our

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2 hearing, and I want to thank everyone who provided  
3 comments today, and I'd also like to remind you that  
4 we'll be holding another virtual hearing this evening  
5 beginning at 5:30 p.m., and we will be holding two  
6 more hearings tomorrow virtually, one at 1 p.m. and  
7 the other at 5:30 p.m. And also, as I stated  
8 earlier, we will be scheduling in-person public  
9 statement hearings throughout Con Edison service  
10 territory. A notice of those hearings will be issued  
11 in due course.

12 And for anyone that did not make a  
13 statement and would like to provide comments through  
14 other means, you can do that through the Department's  
15 website at [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov), by regular mail, or by  
16 telephone.

17 THE COURT REPORTER: We have a call-in  
18 speaker.

19 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. We have two  
20 call-in speakers. Sorry, I just noticed. So let's  
21 take in call-in user 17 first. Your line has been  
22 unmuted.

23 MS. TURNBULL: Hi. Hi. Can you hear  
24 me?

25 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes, we can.



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2 MS. TURNBULL: Hi. My name is Rebecca  
3 Turnbull, R-E-B-E-C-C-A T-U-R-N-B-U-L-L, and I'm a  
4 small business owner in Croton-on-Hudson, New York,  
5 and I also live in Croton-on-Hudson, New York, and I  
6 just wanted to speak up for the small business  
7 community that the rates for commercial spaces are  
8 even more crazy than they are for residential spaces.  
9 And as a really small -- I own, like, a pastry shop,  
10 it's like 800 feet, it's really small. My profit  
11 margin is raiser thin, and if the rates go up on top  
12 of all the other inflationary stuff with cost of  
13 goods, I just don't really know how long I can hang  
14 on.

15 So I just want to urge you to not let  
16 Con Ed raise the rates and even really take a look at  
17 those delivery charges because even before I opened  
18 and had any equipment in there, I was using like  
19 almost no electricity, and my bills were, you know,  
20 over \$500, and that's before I had even my fridges  
21 and equipment in there.

22 So we need to protect our small  
23 business community because we're the anchors of all  
24 these little villages around here and in the city as  
25 well, and we can't afford higher electricity rates.

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2 We're already at our breaking point. So thank you  
3 for hearing, and I hope you guys make the right  
4 decision.

5 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Thank you for  
6 your comment. We'll turn to call-in user 40. Okay.  
7 Your line has been unmuted.

8 FEMALE SPEAKER: Hi. I would like --  
9 I'm sorry. I would like to know when is the hearing  
10 going to be in Westchester? Where are they going  
11 to --

12 A.L.J. COSTELLO: They haven't been  
13 scheduled yet. They will be scheduled, and a notice  
14 will be issued once they are scheduled.

15 FEMALE SPEAKER: Okay. Where will be  
16 the notice be issued?

17 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Well, the notice  
18 gets issued on the Department of Public Services  
19 website. We generally also have some form of notice  
20 published in newspapers of general circulation and  
21 the different locations in which their service, you  
22 know, Con Edison service territory would be, and  
23 there's press release that the Department of Public  
24 service also issues.

25 FEMALE SPEAKER: Okay. Perfect.

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2 Thank you so much.

3 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. You're  
4 welcome. Okay. I see Susie Gevar. Let us unmute  
5 that line please. Okay. Your line has been unmuted.

6 MS. GEVAR: Hi. Yeah. Is there any  
7 way that Con Ed can send out a notice stating when in  
8 our location --

9 A.L.J. COSTELLO: This is not a --  
10 we -- we will -- we have them send out a notice.  
11 It's not to -- not to -- we have them publish a  
12 notice, that's what we do. So if you have any  
13 questions, feel free to contact our office, okay?

14 MS. GEVAR: No, what I'm saying is --

15 A.L.J. COSTELLO: This is not the  
16 forum --

17 MS. GEVAR: that you guys publish  
18 notices in newspapers --

19 A.L.J. COSTELLO: -- this is not the  
20 forum --

21 MS. GEVAR: -- but it's not

22 A.L.J. COSTELLO: I understand --

23 MS. GEVAR: -- in a direct way of  
24 getting to everybody.

25 A.L.J. COSTELLO: I appreciate it.

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2 Thank you.

3 Okay. With that, we are going to  
4 close our hearing. I thank everyone for their  
5 comments, and have a good evening. If anyone that's  
6 interested, again, we'll have public statement  
7 hearings again at 5:30 this evening at 1 p.m. and  
8 5:30 tomorrow.

9 We're off the record.

10 (The hearing concluded at 3:06 p.m.)

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2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 I, PEARL GRANDMONT, do hereby certify that the  
4 foregoing was reported by me, in the cause, at the  
5 time and place, as stated in the caption hereto, at  
6 Page 1 hereof; that the foregoing typewritten  
7 transcription consisting of pages 1 through 92, is a  
8 true record of all proceedings had at the hearing.

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
10 subscribed my name, this the 14th day of April, 2025.

11

12 PEARL GRANDMONT, Reporter

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