

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO CONSOLIDATED EDISON'S PROPOSED
ELECTRIC AND GAS RATE HIKES
CASE 22-E-0064 AND 22-G-0065**

WHEREAS, Westchester County is composed of residents from a diverse range of socioeconomic backgrounds, many of whom are struggling to make ends meet in the face of high energy costs; and

WHEREAS, in addition to staggering utility bills, inflation burdens Westchester County residents with escalating costs of essentials such as food, medicine, transportation, and housing and many residents and businesses are continuing to recover from the effects of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Consolidated Edison) is a regulated utility providing electric and gas services in Westchester County, New York, where customers have no choice over energy providers; and

WHEREAS, as of July 2022, almost 400,000 NYC and Westchester Consolidated Edison customers were behind on their utility bills, averaging \$2,146 in debt per household; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Public Service Commission (PSC) granted Consolidated Edison three consecutive years of delivery rate increases and for the same consecutive three years Consolidated Edison has posted consistent annual revenue and income gains, while residents have struggled to choose between heat and other necessities in the same period; and

WHEREAS, Consolidated Edison now requests PSC approval for additional delivery rate increases over the next three years, which would impose a three-year cumulative total gas delivery bill revenue increase of 31.3% and a three-year cumulative total electric delivery bill

revenue increase of 19.8% on top of market-driven increases in the supply cost of electric and gas; and

WHEREAS, Consolidated Edison's proposed rate increases would further reduce the purchasing power of the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, a program critical to low income residents; and

WHEREAS, New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) requires utility providers to place emphasis on and investment in electrification and specific targeted emission reductions in disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, Consolidated Edison's proposed rate increases are in large part supporting improvements in fossil fuel infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators strongly opposes Consolidated Edison's proposed rate increases because hardworking New Yorkers laboring to meet compounding financial demands should not be forced to shoulder these rate increases.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that to more closely align with New York State's aggressive climate goals, the Westchester County Board of Legislators urges the New York State Public Service Commission to require Consolidated Edison to prioritize electrification over investment in fossil fuel infrastructure, without burdening New York ratepayers;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the Clerk of the Westchester County Board of Legislators is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Westchester County Federal

and State Delegations, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Public Service Commission and the New York State Department of Public Service.

Dated: March 27, 2023
White Plains, NY

Margaret A. Cize
L. O. M. M. M.
Arthur M.
Vedat Gashi
Benjamin Boyton
David Brown

Colin Park
Arthur M.
Henry Zeeberg

COMMITTEES ON

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