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KEVIN M. BYRNE
Assemblyman 94th District
Westchester & Putnam Counties

July 28th, 2022

Commissioner Rory M. Christian
New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

Commissioner Christian,

We write to you on behalf of our respective constituents served by New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG). In what has become far too common of an occurrence, we once again ask that the responsibilities of NYSEG and the state to strengthen and maintain its infrastructure not fall on the burden of rate payers, especially during a time of such economic hardship. New York State residents are already feeling significant financial effects caused from decades-high levels of inflation and massive energy price increases. With this in mind, we implore you to first hold a public hearing in Yorktown or within the surrounding Lower Hudson Valley to provide an opportunity for all the stakeholders involved to have their voices heard and hear directly from NYSEG representatives.

NYSEG’s “Reliable Energy New York,” proposal would cause a painful and unacceptably high rate hike on customers at one of the worst times for our residents. NYSEG estimates a 13 to 22 percent increase in delivery costs with this proposal, which would add between \$10 to \$18 on customers monthly electric bills.

Maintenance costs should be viewed as an inherent part of NYSEG’s operational expenses, especially considering consumers already pay some of the highest energy costs in the country. As recently as 2020, NYSEG received approval on a three-year rate hike that led to a 24.5% increase in customers electric bill.

This an extremely unfortunate time to place more financial burdens on New York residents who are already spread far too thin. As the state agency who oversees the power utility companies and has the ultimate authority to approve or reject a rate case, it is only fair that you provide rate payers a public forum at an accessible location to express their concerns before a decision is made.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Kevin M. Byrne
Member of Assembly
New York’s 94th Assembly District

Matthew J. Slater
Supervisor, Town of Yorktown