



TODD KAMINSKY  
Assemblyman 20<sup>th</sup> District  
Nassau County

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

COMMITTEES  
Consumer Affairs & Protection  
Environmental Conservation  
Judiciary  
Transportation  
Veterans' Affairs

July 31, 2015

Audrey Zibelman, Chair  
NYS Public Service Commission  
Three Empire State Plaza, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12223

David M. Daly, President/COO  
PSEG Long Island  
333 Earle Ovington Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY 11533

Julia Bovey, Director  
NYS Department of Public Service, LI  
125 East Bethpage Road  
Plainview, NY 11803

John McMahon, CEO  
LIPA Corporate Office  
333 Earle Ovington Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY 11533

Hon. Kathleen Burgess  
NYS Department of Public Service  
Three Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 11223

Dear Ms. Zibelman, Mr. Daly, Ms. Bovey, Mr. McMahon and Ms. Burgess,

I am writing to express deep concern about PSEG-LI's most recent plans to increase rates for consumers across Long Island. It is unconscionable that families, small businesses and local governments will be expected to bear the burden of these increased costs while still struggling to recover from a devastating economic recession in 2008 that was followed shortly by two major natural disasters, Hurricane Irene in 2011 and superstorm Sandy in 2012. Our communities have suffered enough and simply do not deserve an unjust increase in electric bills.

As you know, PSEG-LI has proposed a 3.2 percent rate increase over the next three years on Long Island, the largest proposed rate increase since 1998. The increase is reportedly sought to cover rising operating costs. However, in light of the fact that LIPA's debt is projected to increase from its \$6.9 billion level in 2013 to a projected \$8.6 billion in 2018, I am concerned by the timing of this rate increase. Consumers should not be forced to bear the burden of LIPA's mishandled finances and rising debt, especially in an increasingly difficult and expensive economic climate.

Further, the 2013 LIPA Reform Act—intended to freeze haphazard rate hikes and provide more oversight of utilities companies to protect consumers—has seen the unchecked expansion of PSEG across Long Island and has provided little oversight on LIPA's operations. Whereas LILCO was under strict scrutiny from the NYS Department of Public Service ("DPS"), backed by regulatory rulings from the NYS Public Service Commission, the local DPS office now only has the ability to "recommend and review," thus giving PSEG wide range to operate without regulatory oversight. This is deeply concerning and a solution must be sought immediately.

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For these reasons, I oppose PSEG-LI's most recent rate increase proposal. Consumers should not suffer at the hands of utility companies that can make up for expenses with other means than rate hikes. I urge PSEG to retract this proposal immediately and for DPS to use its authority to the fullest extent to prevent any further unjustifiable rate increases. I look forward to a prompt response from PSEG-LI and LIPA on how these agencies will work with Long Island residents, relevant stakeholders and government officials to reach a harmonious solution that does not include a cost burden on consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd K", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd Kaminsky  
Member of Assembly