



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

PETER D. LOPEZ
Assemblyman 102nd District
Albany, Columbia, Delaware,
Greene, Otsego, Schoharie and
Ulster Counties

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Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy Task Force

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Legislative Commission on
Toxic Substances and Hazardous Wastes

June 18, 2014

Speaker Sheldon Silver
Assembly Speaker
Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Silver,

Throughout the state, residents have seen frightening increases in their electric bills; in some cases doubling or tripling from previous months and years. These unprecedented amounts have placed a tremendous financial hardship on families, farms and businesses still grappling with the impacts of a deep recession, pervasive floods and other challenges. Just as important, the relative callousness displayed by the industry in advancing the increases and extracting payment from consumers leaves me questioning their motives and the appropriateness of the existing safeguards which should protect the public from potential abuse.

Families and businesses cannot afford these massive spikes, many already are struggling to pay bills in a recovering economy; people need to be able to afford to heat their homes during a cold winter and not be outrageously charged.

While I understand the market for electricity can vary substantially with ever-changing supply and demand, I am mystified that this "highly regulated" industry could inflict such damage on consumers who are "price takers" and have little or no options when it comes to meeting their energy needs.

As a result, I am writing to respectfully request that you schedule a series of joint legislative hearings and conduct a full review regarding the recent energy cost spikes in New York State.

Respectfully,

Assemblyman Peter D. Lopez
102nd Assembly District