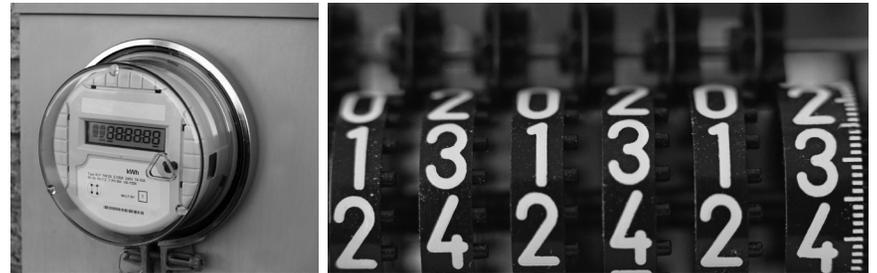


A Message  
About this Year's  
Electric Energy  
Spike From  
Assemblyman  
Pete Lopez



**Want more information?  
Have an idea, suggestion or concern?  
Give Pete a call or contact him  
at any of the following!**

E-mail: [lopezp@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:lopezp@assembly.state.ny.us)  
Website: [assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Peter-D-Lopez](http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Peter-D-Lopez)  
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Albany: 402 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248  
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ASSEMBLYMAN  
**Pete**  
**Lopez**

Dear Neighbor,

Throughout the State, we have seen frightening increases in our electric bills, with some rates doubling or tripling from previous months and years. These unprecedented spikes 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.

There seems to be a callousness displayed by the industry in advancing the increases and extracting payment from consumers, which leaves me questioning their motives and the appropriateness of the existing safeguards meant to protect the public from potential abuse.

Families and businesses cannot afford these massive spikes. We need to make sure consumers are not being unjustly overcharged and that this situation does not happen again. As a result, I am requesting that the Legislature and Public Service Commission schedule a series of joint hearings and conduct a full review regarding the recent energy cost spikes in New York State.

My goal is to press the PSC, Governor and Legislative leaders to address this critical issue by offering price hike protections, as well as energy conservation and strengthened renewable energy options for homeowners, farms and businesses - before people get hurt again.

Respectfully,



Assemblyman Peter D. Lopez  
102nd Assembly District

# Energy Options:

As a consumer, you have the right to change your supplier. There are many energy suppliers available to you, some of which offer fixed energy rates. Suppliers can be found here: [http://www.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/business/energychoice/4\\_supplier\\_list.asp](http://www.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/business/energychoice/4_supplier_list.asp).

Many people are looking for ways to reduce their reliance on the grid. Pete is a believer in alternative energy and in "distributed power production" offering a way to produce energy where we live and work. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) website will provide some initial direction, and Pete's office is ready to help you explore options on a case by case basis. In the meantime, please join Pete in pushing Albany and Washington to make these options more available and affordable to us. <http://on.ny.gov/1qYqb68>.

If you are struggling financially and facing high heating bills, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) may be able to help. HEAP helps low-income New Yorkers heat their homes with federal money and offers additional services for heating emergencies. For more information you can visit: [www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap](http://www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap).



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