



DIDI BARRETT
 Assemblymember 106th District

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April 28, 2014

Cheryl A. Lefleur, Acting Chair
 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
 888 First Street, NE
 Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairwoman Lefleur,

As the May 1st deadline for the new capacity zone expansion in the Hudson Valley draws near, I again join leaders at the county, state and federal levels in urging FERC to enact a stay of the order, so as to relieve Hudson Valley ratepayers of additional increases to their bills in the aftermath of a historically challenging winter. The new capacity zones could hit our region with a \$230 million increase in energy costs in the first year alone, and \$500 million over the next three years. This will cause a near instantaneous spike in energy costs to my constituents who have already seen skyrocketing fuel bills resulting in significant economic pain for Hudson Valley homeowners and businesses.

I respectfully request that FERC consider the many efforts already in progress to develop renewable sources of energy, to cut usage, and to address the bottleneck in delivering energy from upstate to downstate areas. I also ask FERC to think about the economic stress that this capacity zone would impose on the residents in my community, who cannot shoulder even higher energy costs right now. I'm confident that if these concerns are given full and fair consideration, FERC will postpone the new capacity zones in our region.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Didi Barrett
 Member of Assembly, 106th District

CC:
 U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer
 U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
 Audrey Zibelman, Chair, PSC
 Congressman Chris Gibson
 Congressman Sean Maloney
 Marcus J. Molinaro, Dutchess County Executive