

THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

Ranking Minority Member Committee on Governmental Operations

COMMITTEE

Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry Local Governments Oversight, Analysis and Investigation

MEMBER

Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus

Hon. Rory M. Christian, Chair New York State Public Service Commission < Via Email>

April 23, 2025

RE: Case 24-E-0461 - Opposition to Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation's Proposed Rate Increase

Dear Chair Christian and Members of the Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the residents of New York's 105th Assembly District to express strong opposition to Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation's proposed increase in electric delivery revenues under Case 24-E-0461.

While I acknowledge Central Hudson's commitment to modernizing infrastructure, improving system reliability, and meeting our state's climate and cybersecurity goals, the timing and scale of this request raise serious concerns for our community.

Central Hudson is seeking to raise electric delivery revenues by approximately \$47.2 million—an 8.8% increase in base delivery rates, equating to a 4.6% rise in total system revenues. For the average residential customer, this would result in a monthly bill increase of \$9.19, representing an 8.6% hike on the delivery portion and a 5.3% overall increase.

This proposal arrives at a time when Hudson Valley families and small businesses are already burdened by soaring costs in housing, groceries, healthcare, and other essentials. An increase of this magnitude would disproportionately affect lower-income households, seniors on fixed incomes, and small business owners struggling to stay afloat.

I respectfully urge the Commission to carefully scrutinize Central Hudson's request and seek alternatives that prioritize affordability. Options such as phased implementation, targeted assistance programs, or greater cost containment should be thoroughly evaluated to reduce the financial strain on ratepayers.

New York's clean energy transition must not come at the expense of economic stability for working families. I believe it is possible to support infrastructure upgrades and reliability without placing undue burden on the very customers Central Hudson serves.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter. I am confident that with a collaborative approach, we can find a path forward that ensures both fiscal responsibility and a sustainable energy future for all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Anil Beephan

New York State Assemblyman District 105 (Dutchess County)