

TOWN OF PLATTSBURGH
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
February 13, 2025

Resolution No. 025-060

**Resolution from the Town of Plattsburgh to the
Public Service Commission and State Legislators
Regarding NYSEG Electric Rates**

WHEREAS, the Town of Plattsburgh is committed to protecting its residents from financial hardship, particularly in the face of escalating utility costs; and

WHEREAS, residents, especially seniors, fixed-income households, and working-class families, are facing an increasing burden due to rising electric rates and excessive fees imposed by the New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG); and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission (PSC) and New York State legislators have a duty to ensure that utility rates are fair, just, and reasonable, and that additional fees, such as energy distribution charges, are not arbitrarily inflated to the detriment of consumers; and

WHEREAS, NYSEG has reported significant profits, including a net income of \$150 million in 2022, raising concerns that current rate structures may not reflect the economic challenges faced by everyday New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, the delivery charges imposed by NYSEG have dramatically increased, creating an unsustainable financial strain on households that rely on essential energy services, particularly in an era of inflation and economic uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Town of Plattsburgh have voiced their frustration and concern over rising energy costs, with many struggling to afford basic utilities necessary for their health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, with potential economic disruptions, including tariffs and trade uncertainties affecting cross-border energy supply, New York State must take proactive steps to prevent further financial strain on ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, the escalating electric costs are further exacerbated by inflation, which continues to impact household budgets, increase the cost of living, and contribute to growing financial insecurity across the region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Plattsburgh urges the Public Service Commission (PSC), Governor Kathy Hochul, and the New York State Legislature to take immediate action by implementing the following cost-saving measures to protect consumers:

1. **Rate Adjustment & Oversight** – Conduct an independent review of NYSEG’s rate structure to ensure that rate increases and distribution fees are justified, transparent, and proportionate to actual service costs rather than corporate profit margins.
2. **Fee Reduction & Transparency** – Require NYSEG to eliminate or reduce excessive delivery fees and other surcharges that disproportionately impact residential customers, particularly those on fixed incomes.
3. **Enhanced Consumer Protection** – Expand financial assistance programs for low-income households, increase access to energy efficiency grants, and establish stronger safeguards against unfair rate hikes.
4. **Utility Reform & Accountability** – Implement stricter state oversight of NYSEG to prevent unjustified increases, ensure better corporate accountability, and improve transparency in utility pricing and service quality.
5. **Legislative Action** – Urge state lawmakers to pass legislation that places caps on excessive energy delivery charges and requires utilities to reinvest a portion of their profits into infrastructure improvements and customer relief programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Public Service Commission, Governor Kathy Hochul, relevant state legislators, and other key stakeholders, calling for urgent reforms to protect the financial stability of residents in the Town of Plattsburgh and across New York State.

Motion:

Seconded by:

Discussion:

Yes No Absent Carried Tabled

Thomas E. Wood
Charles A. Kostyk
Dana M. Isabella
Daniel A. Bosley
Michael S. Cashman