

**RESOLUTION OF THE LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL URGING ENHANCED
TRANSPARENCY IN UTILITY BILLING PRACTICES THROUGH DETAILED
ITEMIZATION OF DELIVERY CHARGES AND TRACKING MECHANISMS**

- WHEREAS,** the Lake County Council serves as the fiscal body for Lake County, Indiana, with responsibility to promote the financial well-being, affordability, and quality of life for its residents; and
- WHEREAS,** electric and natural gas utilities provide essential services to Lake County households and businesses, and utility costs significantly impact household budgets, economic development, and overall affordability in the county; and
- WHEREAS,** the "delivery charge" (also referred to as distribution, service, or transportation charge) on utility bills often constitutes a substantial or majority portion of a customer's total bill, covering infrastructure maintenance, operations, safety compliance, depreciation, and other system-related costs; and
- WHEREAS,** many Indiana utilities recover additional costs through Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC)-approved rate adjustment mechanisms, commonly known as "trackers" or "riders" (e.g., for fuel and purchased power, demand-side management programs, environmental compliance, capital investments, safety enhancements, and other pass-through expenses), which are frequently embedded within the delivery charge without clear, itemized disclosure on customer bills; and
- WHEREAS,** the current practice of presenting delivery charges in an aggregated or minimally described format limits consumers' ability to understand the specific components of these charges, verify the accuracy and reasonableness of recoveries, identify potential over-recoveries, or engage effectively in rate proceedings before the IURC; and
- WHEREAS,** greater billing transparency—through mandatory, detailed line-item breakdowns of delivery charge components, including separate identification of major tracking mechanisms—would enhance public accountability, empower informed consumer decision-making and advocacy, foster trust in regulated utilities, and align with broader statewide efforts to address utility affordability and consumer protections; and
- WHEREAS,** similar transparency requirements have been proposed or implemented in other jurisdictions and sectors to improve consumer understanding of regulated charges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lake County Council, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

- Section 1. The Lake County Council hereby expresses its strong support for enhanced transparency in utility billing practices throughout Indiana.
- Section 2. The Council urges the Indiana General Assembly to consider and enact legislation requiring electric and natural gas utilities operating in Indiana to provide a clear, itemized breakdown of all components of the delivery charge (or equivalent) on customer bills, including but not limited to base distribution costs, specific tracking mechanisms/riders (with identification of the associated IURC cause number or approval where applicable), and other recoveries.
- Section 3. The Council further urges the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to adopt rules, guidelines, or tariff requirements mandating such detailed disclosures in a standardized, consumer-friendly format on monthly bills, to promote accountability and facilitate public oversight of utility costs.
- Section 4. A copy of this adopted Resolution shall be transmitted to:
- The Governor of Indiana;
 - The Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives;
 - The President Pro Tempore of the Indiana Senate;
 - Relevant chairs of legislative committees on utilities, energy, and consumer affairs;
 - The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; and
 - Major utilities serving Lake County (e.g., NIPSCO and others as applicable).
- Section 5. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by further action of the Council.

SO RESOLVED THIS 10TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.

CHRISTINE CID, President

DAVID HAMM

CHARLIE BROWN

RANDELL C. NIEMEYER

RONALD G. BREWER,
SR.

PETE LINDEMULDER

TED F. BILSKI

Member of the Lake County Council