



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

General Court

February 14th, 2025

James Van Nostrand, Chair
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

RE: Urgent Review of Recent Energy Rate Increases

Dear Chair Van Nostrand,

We write to express our deep concerns regarding the steep rate increases recently approved for investor-owned utility companies, particularly Eversource and National Grid. As temperatures drop, residents across Massachusetts are facing unprecedented spikes in their energy bills, creating an unsustainable financial burden on households and small businesses alike.

Constituents across our districts have shared alarming reports of skyrocketing energy costs with bills doubling. One resident saw their January Eversource bill climb to \$449.91—nearly \$300 of which was attributed solely to supply costs. Additional residents in affordable housing complexes have voiced deep concern over excessive delivery charges and fees, noting that they live on a fixed income and cannot afford these relentless rate hikes. Seniors and retirees have reached out in distress, questioning how Eversource can justify such exorbitant costs when Social Security benefits have only seen a modest 2% increase. Many are now facing an astonishing 27% increase for the coming heating season.

Eversource has attempted to blame these spikes on colder temperatures, increased usage, and rate adjustments implemented in November 2024. Yet many customers who have kept their thermostats at consistent levels are still seeing drastic hikes, raising serious concerns about the fairness and necessity of these increases.

Time and again, profits are prioritized over the well-being of Massachusetts families, seniors, and small businesses.

We urge the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to take immediate action to reassess these rate adjustments and hold Eversource accountable. While energy prices fluctuate, utility companies should not have free rein to impose unpredictable and excessive financial burdens on ratepayers.

A complete and transparent review of Eversource's pricing structure and its justification for these increases is not only warranted but necessary to protect consumers from further exploitation.

With winter in full swing, the urgency of this issue cannot be overstated. We call on the DPU to take these concerns seriously and implement measures that prioritize affordability and fairness for all residents.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this matter and look forward to your response on resolving this situation.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Senator Jake Oliveira
Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District

Senator Bruce Tarr
1st Essex & Middlesex

Senator Liz Miranda
2nd Suffolk District

Senator Mike Rush
Norfolk & Suffolk District

Senator Jo Comerford
Hampshire, Franklin & Worcester District

Senator Paul Mark
Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin & Hampshire

Senator Robyn Kennedy
1st Worcester District

Senator Peter Durant
Worcester and Hampshire District

Senator Adam Gomez
Hampden District

Senator James Eldridge
Middlesex & Worcester District

Senator John Velis
Hampden & Hampshire

Senator Paul Feeney
Bristol & Norfolk District

Senator Michael Moore
2nd Worcester District

Senator Mark Montigny
Second Bristol & Plymouth

Senator Becca Rausch
Norfolk, Worcester & Middlesex

Senator Patrick O'Connor
1st Plymouth & Norfolk District

Senator Michael Brady
2nd Plymouth & Norfolk

Senator Patricia Jehlen
2nd Middlesex District

Senator Julian Cyr
Cape & Islands District

Senator Dylan Fernandes
Plymouth & Barnstable District

Senator Pavel Payano
1st Essex District

Rep. Michael Finn
6th Hampden District

Rep. Chynah Tyler
7th Suffolk District

Rep. Chris Hendricks
11th Bristol District

Rep. John Barrett III
1st Berkshire District

Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven
27th Middlesex District

Rep. Natalie Blais
1st Franklin District

Rep. Donald Wong
9th Essex District

Rep. Carol Doherty
3rd Bristol District

Rep. Tram Nguyen
18th Essex District

Rep. Steve Ouellette
8th Bristol District

Rep. Mindy Domb
3rd Hampshire District

Rep. Leigh Davis
3rd Berkshire District

Rep. Susannah Whipps
4th Franklin District

Rep. Estela Reyes
4th Essex District

Senator Barry Finegold
2nd Essex and Middlesex District

Rep. John Marsi
6th Worcester District

Rep. Angelo Puppolo
12th Hampden District

Rep. Frank Moran
17th Essex District

Rep. John Gaskey
2nd Plymouth District

Rep. Rodney Elliott
16th Middlesex District

Rep. Edward Philips
8th Norfolk District

Rep. Marc Lombardo
22nd Middlesex District

Rep. Brian Ashe
2nd Hampden District

Rep. Amy Sangiolo
11th Middlesex District

Rep. Norman Orrall
12th Bristol District

Rep. Ryan Hamilton
15th Essex District

Rep. Kip Diggs
2nd Barnstable District

Rep. John Rogers
12th Norfolk District

Rep. Hannah Kane
11th Worcester District

Rep. Bud Williams
11th Hampden District

Rep. Mike Connolly
26th Middlesex District

Rep. Mark Sylvia
10th Bristol District

Rep. Paul Donato
35th Middlesex District

Rep. John Moran
9th Suffolk District

Rep. Kim Ferguson
1st Worcester District

Rep. David Vieira
3rd Barnstable District

Rep. Brian Murray
10th Worcester District

Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa
1st Hampden District

Rep. Mike Chaisson
1st Bristol District

Rep. Carlos Gonzalez
10th Hampden District

Rep. Adrianne Ramos
14th Essex District

Rep. Andy Vargas
3rd Essex District

Rep. Marjorie Decker
25th Middlesex District

Rep. Orlando Ramos
9th Hampden District

Rep. Patrick Kearney
4th Plymouth District

Rep. Michelle Badger
1st Plymouth District

Rep. Steve Howitt
4th Bristol District

Rep. William MacGregor
10th Suffolk District

Rep. Dawne Shand
1st Essex District

Rep. Joshua Tarsky
13th Norfolk District

Rep. David Muradian
9th Worcester District

Rep. Vanna Howard
17th Middlesex District

Rep. Homar Gomez
2nd Hampshire District

Rep. Steve Owens
29th Middlesex District

Rep. Christopher Flanagan
1st Barnstable District

Rep. Shirley Arriaga
8th Hampden District

Rep. Rodney Elliott
16th Middlesex District

Rep. Aaron Saunders
7th Hampden District

Rep. Todd Smola
1st Hampden District

CC: Senate President Karen Spilka
Speaker Ron Mariano
Secretary Rebecca Tepper, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs