

3/7/23

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The Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
United States Representative
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez:

As and also a resident of the 14th district in college point for the past 10 years and student in Social Work Education at Alliance University, I am writing to you to raise the issue of the increased bill from ConEdison in New York.

Recently, there was an increase in electricity bills from the ConEdison and has been a shock to every one of the amounts that needed to be paid. ConEdison was allowed by the Utility and State regulators to increase its electric and gas billing cost for the past three years starting from January 2020. The rates went up from around 11.5% to 13.5% for electricity and around 20% to 25% for gas from 2020 to 2022. Now in 2023, the percentage did go lower by approximately 11.2% on electric and for gas: 18.2% The reasoning behind the rise was for this New York's clean energy goal; to accumulate more funds for infrastructure advancement and invest in clean energy industries. To compensate for the increased price of natural gas these past years, it is clear ConEdison has to increase its price.

The goal of ConEdison's clean energy is wonderful and understandably all not to be blamed for the spiked rating. However, for the people in New York who are single, married, have a family, or are single with a kid(s); the increase in spike is draining. Many complaints I have heard about the increase causing many of the citizens to lose money. Not being able to save enough and without an increase in wages of jobs, the people are becoming dried with their money due to this "New York's cleaner energy goal". As understandable of the gas price going high for ConEdison because of the pandemic, but why increase the number of customers as well?

May you help us be able to expand on the H.R.5376 bill of the *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022* to 2023? To allow New Yorkers if not just the 14th District to be able to have citizens' gross income be a factor on how much they have to pay for their billing? As there are programs/ways that ConEdison provides to decrease billing like for seniors 62 and older. What about the rest of the ages younger, what about how much they make? If possible for this year or the next, may the goal of changing to renewable energy be achievable but not by leeching off the customers that can't afford it. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Joseph Kim
Student