



## Town of Fishkill

### Office of the Town Supervisor

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Re: Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation

Dear Chairman Christian,

Case: 23-E-0418 and 23-G-0419

I am reaching out to you today on behalf of the residents and Town Board of the Town of Fishkill, regarding Central Hudson's rate increase petitions. This proposed increase constitutes an excessive burden to place on the backs of the countless seniors, veterans, unemployed, and all residents who are struggling to pay their current bills. This would have a serious negative impact on the quality of life of all the residents who have been trying to navigate through Central Hudson's horrible billing practices which we all know have been a failure.

As the Town Supervisor of one of the Largest Towns in Central Hudson's territory, I understand how my constituents are struggling to pay their utility bills, already among the highest in the nation. NYS residents typically pay 30-35% more for electricity on average than the rest of the country. The Central Hudson Representatives attended the most recent Supervisor's and Mayor's Association of Dutchess County and discussed their rate hikes in detail. They indicated that NYS's closing of the nuclear power plant in our region, has impacted the cost of energy. This has and will continue to affect the hardworking public and residents. This being said, how can a rate increase be justified?

I understand how upgrades to infrastructure are needed to adequately plan for storm recoveries and higher energy demands but timing is everything and with the current state of the economy perhaps a delay would help residents get back on their feet. In recent years, the inflation rate has been increasing faster than hardworking residents can keep up, and it has taken a toll. Double-digit percentage increases for everyday necessities has and will continue to strain and stress the public. Disposable income is a thing of the past and to compound these economic stresses with a double-digit gas and electric rate increases would be nothing short of disastrous.

I am writing to strongly urge the Public Service Commission at this time to take this all into consideration and decline to authorize the proposed rate hikes. There is always another option to choose, as I have seen in my time in Government this to be proven to be true. This is just not the appropriate time to approve this increase. I appreciate your time and due diligence in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ozzy Albra

Town of Fishkill Supervisor