



MICHAEL REILLY
Assemblyman 62nd District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Committee on Cities
COMMITTEES
Aging
Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Higher Education
Housing

July 26, 2019

Hon. John B. Rhodes
Chair & Chief Executive Officer
3 Empire State Plaza,
Albany, New York, 12223

Dear Chairman Rhodes:

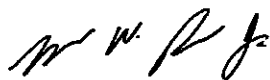
We the undersigned are writing to express our concern over the Public Service Commission's poorly scheduled hearing for Staten Island residents to provide comment on National Grid's proposed increase to gas delivery rates. It has come to our attention that the hearing has been scheduled for a weekday afternoon – Wednesday, August 21, at 2:00pm – at a location that is not equally accessible to all of our constituents. In order to ensure that all of our constituents have a fair opportunity to provide comment on this proposed rate increase, we would like to respectfully request that the Public Service Commission reschedule this hearing for a time and location that is practical.

Many of our constituents are blue- and white-collar workers who do not return home until after 5:00pm. It is unfair to hold a hearing in the middle of the afternoon when most of our constituents are either still at work or home caring for the child of a relative who is at work. A more practical time would be after 6:00pm, preferably 7:00pm, as to ensure our constituents have an adequate amount of time to return home and travel to the location of the hearing.

That said we also believe that the location selected by the Public Service Commission to hold this hearing is not equally accessible to all of our constituents. The St. George Library not only lacks the adequate amount of space necessary to hold this hearing, but it is also not easily reachable for our constituents via public transit, specifically those coming from the South Shore of Staten Island. Of course they can drive their personal vehicle, but this location offers very limited parking. It confuses us as to why the Public Service Commission chose this location while the venues for Queens and Brooklyn are of adequate size. We suggest using the College of Staten Island or the Michael J. Petrides School which are both centrally located on the Island and very accessible to those using public transit or their own vehicle. We would be more than happy to connect you with the appropriate individual at either venue if you so wish.

The bottom line is that this will be the third public hearing our constituents have attended this year in protest of a proposed rate increase for services. While our constituents may not agree with the rate increases, we appreciate the fact that the Port Authority and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority at least had the decency to hold their hearings at a time and location convenient for our constituents, and we hope that the Public Service Commission will do the same. It is important that everyone has a fair chance to provide comment before you make this crucial decision.

We appreciate your attention to this letter and look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our respective offices.



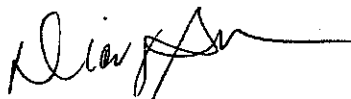
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Diane Savino
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