



Michael J. Cusick
Assemblymember
63rd District
Richmond County

**New York State
Assembly**

Chairman
Committee on Energy

Committee Member
Governmental Employees
Higher Education
Veterans' Affairs
Ways and Means

April 21, 2020

John B. Rhodes
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
New York State Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 3
Albany, NY 12223

Re: 20-M-0198

To Chair Rhodes,

I write to urge the PSC to investigate and respond to the impact the COVID-19 Pandemic is having on residential and small business utility customers.

As you are well aware, the COVID-19 Pandemic is unprecedented and is having a tremendous impact on our economy in addition to the health of New York residents. With schools closed, non-essential workers staying home, and a steep increase in telecommuting as a result of Governor Cuomo's PAUSE order, electricity demand is down overall but has shifted the financial burden away from the commercial sector and towards the residential. The financial impact of today's crisis will be felt for years to come and in recognition of that reality, I believe it is incumbent on the PSC to immediately take steps to address and brace for the economic fallout of the Pandemic.

As it has done in times of crisis past, the PSC should immediately review current utility rate plans, rate cases under consideration, and pending cases in light of the Pandemic to ensure ratepayers are not unduly burdened in the aftermath. This proceeding should include an order for utilities to file austerity plans with the PSC to ensure critical services are maintained without increasing customer costs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Cusick".

Michael J. Cusick
Member of Assembly