



**SHELLEY MAYER**  
Assemblymember 90<sup>th</sup> District

**THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY**

**CHAIR**  
Oversight, Analysis &  
Investigation Committee

**COMMITTEES**  
Children and Families  
Cities  
Education  
Labor  
Social Services

**MEMBER**  
Legislative Women's Caucus  
Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force  
Assembly Task Force on  
Women's Issues

March 6, 2018

John Rhodes  
Chair, Public Service Commission  
State of New York  
Three Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Dear Chairman Rhodes:

As you know, the severe storm this past week wreaked havoc on our Westchester community, and caused thousands of our constituents to be without power on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>; Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>; Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>; Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> and even today Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. As of today, we do not have a reliable date for full restoration, and many streets remain unpassable. The consequences of this delay have been severe, including school cancellations, medical emergencies and municipal fiscal strain. Many of our constituents are still without power as we write this letter and the time for action is overdue. Frankly, we are profoundly dissatisfied with the delayed and inadequate response of our two utility companies, Con Edison and NYSEG. We know many of our constituents feel the same sense of outrage and anger, and they are entitled to be heard by the Commission overseeing the utilities that serve them and for which they pay a significant cost.

As Assemblymembers representing residents across Westchester County, we are therefore requesting that the Public Service Commission (PSC) convene a Public Statement Hearing to receive residents' public comments on Con Edison and New York State Electric & Gas Corporation's (NYSEG) preparation for and response to the severe rain and snow storm. We are requesting the hearing to be held at the Westchester County Center within a very short period of time.

As you know, following widespread power outages across the state after Superstorm Sandy and similarly inadequate utility response, Governor Cuomo directed the Public Service Commission to strengthen its oversight of utilities. Utilities are now required to develop comprehensive storm response plans that are approved annually by the PSC. To facilitate improved emergency preparation and response and hold utility companies accountable for timely restoration and response, the PSC is required to provide an assessment of electric utility performance after a significant outage. We look forward to such an assessment, but in the interim, we want to be sure utility rate payers are provided with a convenient

opportunity to be heard about the profound challenges caused by the utility's failures to move quickly and prepare adequately for this storm.

We have been in communication with County Executive George Latimer and we have been assured that the County will welcome the Commission to the Westchester County Center for such a hearing on a mutually agreed upon date. We look forward to hearing from you to schedule a Public Statement Hearing in Westchester within a short period of time.

Sincerely,

Shelley B. Mayer



J. Gary Pretlow



Thomas J. Abinanti



David Buchwald



Sandy Galef



Amy R. Paulin



Steven Otis



Kevin Byrne



cc: John McAvoy, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Consolidated Edison, Inc. (ConEd)  
Carl A. Taylor, President/CEO New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG)  
George Latimer, Westchester County Executive