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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

December 4, 2025

Secretary Matthew L. Homsher, Esq.  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. PPL Electric Utilities  
Corporation Docket Number: R-2025-3057164**

Dear Secretary Homsher,

In anticipation of the public hearing scheduled to be held in Harrisburg on December 10, 2025, I offer the following written comments for submission in PUC Docket Number R-2025-3057164 expressing my concerns related to a proposed rate increase sought by PPL Electric Utilities Corporation ("PPL"). The electric utility company serves a portion of the 15th Senatorial District, which I represent. According to the Commission's Order<sup>1</sup> issued on October 23, 2025, the utility is pursuing changes in rates, rules, and regulations calculated to produce \$356.3 million (33.4%) in additional annual revenues, an increase in residential customers' bills using 918 kWh per month from \$177.01 to \$189.40 (7%).

Throughout PPL's service territory, consumers are struggling. The reality is that unexpected increases in utility expenses are causing stress and anxiety for many of my constituents. Residents are still firmly in the grip of inflationary pressures and wrestling with price increases for necessities such as food, rent, health care and utility costs. Those financial impacts for working families are devastating. Over 377,000 Pennsylvania families had their electricity, water, and gas shut off in 2024, according to the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project. The Project's executive director Elizabeth Marx says that is a 15% increase from 2023.

More and more households are falling behind on paying their bills to keep on the lights and heat their homes, according to a new analysis of consumer data. In particular, past-due balances to utility companies jumped 9.7 percent annually to \$789 between the April-June periods of 2024 and 2025, said the Century Foundation and the advocacy group Protect Borrowers. The increase has overlapped with a 12 percent jump in monthly energy bills during

<sup>1</sup> October 23, 2025 PUC Order <https://www.puc.pa.gov/pcdocs/1899807.pdf>

the same period. Nearly 6 million households have utility debt "so severe" that it will soon be reported to collection agencies.<sup>2</sup>

And a national online poll<sup>3</sup>, conducted for PowerLines by the nonpartisan polling company Ipsos using the probability-based online KnowledgePanel®, surveyed 2,036 American adults, including 1,944 electric billpayers, from March 28 to 30, 2025. Key findings from the poll include:

- Nearly two in three (64%) Americans whose household pays a monthly electric and gas utility bill say those bills have increased compared to a year ago.
- Nearly two in three (63%) billpayers indicate that their electric and gas utility bills are adding to their financial stress.

Consumer home heating costs are expected to rise as weeks of freezing temperatures in Pennsylvania are driving up energy demand.

The PPL request arises amid an interwoven set of legal issues and of unresolved energy policy development in Pennsylvania. These include:

1. the requirement for PJM to estimate the demand for electricity for the upcoming coming year to host an auction that hopefully yields enough electric generation to meet demand in the coming year;
2. the repeal of the regulation that would have allowed Pennsylvania to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and the required subsequent substantive conversations about energy that have yet to occur;
3. the fact that several power plants (mostly coal and natural gas) are being taken off the grid because they are not economically viable; and
4. the proliferation of data centers and the effect of data centers and other large load growth on PPL residential bills.

PPL's current and near-term financial outlook is stable and the utility has sufficient revenues and cash flows to continue to provide safe and reasonable service, to continue its construction activities, to pay all of its expenses and to earn a reasonable profit. In fact, in its most recent quarterly report PPL reported strong financial results. On November 5, 2025, PPL reported earnings of \$915 million, or \$1.23 per share, for the first nine months of 2025, compared with the reported earnings of \$711 million, or \$0.96 per share, for the first nine months of 2024. Quoting Vincent Sorgi, PPL president and chief executive officer: "Our strategy to create the utilities of the future continues to deliver tangible results for our customers and shareowners. *Across PPL, we continue to prioritize affordability as we invest in the infrastructure needed to power economic development, including data centers, and secure a more reliable, resilient energy future.*"<sup>4</sup> (emphasis added)

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<sup>2</sup> <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2025/11/17/analysis-shows-us-consumers-falling-behind-on-utility-bills-00654173>

<sup>3</sup> <https://powerlines.org/skyrocketing-utility-bills-nationwide-leave-american-consumers-feeling-stressed-powerless/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://investors.pplweb.com/2025-11-05-PPL-Corporation-reports-third-quarter-2025-results-narrows-earnings-forecast-and-reaffirms-growth-targets#>

I do acknowledge the pressures PPL is facing to provide electricity to an ever-increasing number of large load customers such as data centers. However, the increased costs that electric utilities are incurring because of this should not be financed on the backs of the residential customer base.

I am particularly concerned that the requested rate increase may result in unjust and unreasonable rates that would impose severe hardship on low- and moderate-income residential households, which face disproportionately high energy costs compared to higher income households. Raising utility rates would compound the already high rates of involuntary termination and exacerbate the disproportionate health impacts on low-income communities and communities of color and prolonging the longer-term economic recovery for these same households.

I appreciate and respect the role that the Commission plays in regulating utilities in Pennsylvania. On behalf of the communities and the constituents that I serve, I thank you for your consideration of their interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Kim", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Patty Kim

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