

**RESOLUTION R-2026-19
LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL**

A Resolution of Luzerne County Council Expressing Concern Regarding Proposed Electric Utility Rate Increases and Urging the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to Ensure Fair, Cost-Based Utility Rate Design that Protects Residential and Small Business Customers from Unintended Cost Shifting by Large-Scale, High-Load Users, Including Data Centers

WHEREAS, PPL Electric Utilities has filed a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission seeking an annual revenue increase of approximately \$356.3 million, representing an overall increase of approximately 33.4 percent, with the majority of the increase allocated to residential customers and an estimated \$13 per month increase for a typical household; and

WHEREAS, the proposal includes a 21 percent increase in the fixed monthly customer charge, which would further burden households and small businesses regardless of usage and disproportionately impact customers with limited flexibility, including seniors, working families, and small businesses operating on narrow margins; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rate structure produces unequal impacts across customer classes, with residential customers facing the highest percentage increase while certain large-load users would reportedly experience smaller increases or reduced rates despite placing substantial demand on electric and related utility infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Luzerne County has experienced increased development interest in large-scale, energy-intensive facilities, including data centers, that consume extraordinary amounts of electricity and, in some cases, water, generate limited permanent employment, and require significant investment in generation, transmission, distribution, water supply, and related infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, absent appropriate rate design or cost allocation mechanisms, the infrastructure costs driven by such large-scale, high-load users may be shifted to residential and small business ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, traditional industrial utility rate classifications were developed primarily for manufacturing and employment-intensive uses and may not fully reflect the operational characteristics, infrastructure impacts, and public benefit associated with hyperscale data centers and similar facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is charged with ensuring that electric and water utility rates are just, reasonable, and based on principles of cost causation, and reliable utility service must be supported by infrastructure investments that are necessary and equitably distributed; and

WHEREAS, rising utility costs directly affect household stability, small business viability, and the overall economic health of Luzerne County, and the County has a legitimate interest in protecting residents from unintended cost shifting while supporting responsible economic development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Luzerne County Council, that Council hereby expresses concern regarding the scale, structure, and cost allocation of the proposed electric utility rate increase filed by PPL Electric Utilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Luzerne County Council urges the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to carefully evaluate the proposed increase and ensure that any approved rate adjustment is necessary, measured, and equitably allocated, with particular attention to impacts on residential and small business customers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Luzerne County Council respectfully urges the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to review whether existing electric and water utility rate classifications appropriately reflect cost causation, infrastructure impacts, and public benefit associated with large-scale, high-load users, including data centers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Luzerne County Council urges the Commission to consider lawful regulatory tools, including customer-class-specific rate structures or infrastructure cost recovery mechanisms, to ensure that large-scale, high-load users bear their fair share of system costs while maintaining reliability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Resolution is not intended to oppose economic development, but to promote fair, transparent, and sustainable utility rate design consistent with long-term community interests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Clerk of Luzerne County Council shall transmit certified copies of this Resolution to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate, the Pennsylvania Office of Small Business Advocate, PPL Electric Utilities, and Luzerne County's state legislative delegation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Luzerne County Council authorizes the Luzerne County Executive Branch to file an online formal complaint with the PUC and to make available a representative at the associated hearing(s)

This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

ADOPTED at a meeting of the Luzerne County Council held on January 27, 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE (11-0)

YES: Belles, Coslett, Haas, Krushnowski, Lombardo, McDermott, Sabatino, Simmons, Smith, Stephenson and Williams

LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

By: James Sabatino
Jimmy Sabatino, Chair

LUZERNE COUNTY MANAGER

By: Romilda Crocama
Romilda Crocama, Esq., County Manager

Attest: [Signature]
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

March 12 2026