



City of Methuen, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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David P. Beauregard, Jr.

Mayor

February 18, 2025

James M. Van Nostrand, Chair
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station, Fifth Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Chair Van Nostrand,

The recent spike in natural gas rates is unacceptable and has placed an immense financial strain on the residents of Methuen. Families and small businesses are already struggling with rising costs. People cannot simply absorb these outrageous increases – especially individuals and families living on fixed or limited incomes.

According to a recent report, Eversource's CEO rakes in nearly \$19 million a year, while Methuen residents, with a median household income of \$94,187, are being gouged by exorbitant gas delivery charges. Something is wrong with this picture. The pillaging of Methuen's residents by greedy utility companies must stop.

In Methuen, I recently took decisive action to lower electric utility rates by securing a competitive rate of 12.8 cents per kilowatt hour – 20% lower than National Grid's basic service rate this winter – through our new Community Choice Power Supply Program. In 2023, the DPU stabilized electricity rates at the state level. Now, you must do the same for natural gas. Going forward, it is critical to make rates predictable, expand discount programs for families and individuals in need, and ease the burden on struggling households.

Enough is enough. Please do the right thing and act now.

Sincerely,

David P. Beauregard, Jr.
Mayor
City of Methuen