

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is committed to clean and affordable energy and has worked towards decarbonization, green technology, and upgrading fleet management to meet its climate and public health goals; and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth Edison (ComEd), the city's primary electric utility provider, is central to the City's ability to meet these goals, as ComEd is responsible for ensuring the reliability, resilience, and affordability of the electric grid for all residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Chicagoans continue to face rising electricity bills and pricing complexities under ComEd, including proposed and ongoing increases in base rates, the implementation of time-of-use (TOU) and peak pricing schemes, and questions regarding equitable access to energy-efficient infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, this trend coincides with rising peak electricity demand driven by the increased adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), electrified space and water heating, data center and AI technology, and growing industrial electrification, placing unprecedented stress on grid capacity and distribution infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Clean and Affordable Buildings Ordinance (CABO) aims to accelerate building decarbonization by phasing out natural gas use in new construction and major renovations, thereby increasing long-term electricity consumption and requiring detailed examination of grid readiness and equitable implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Hazel Johnson Environmental Justice Ordinance, introduced to strengthen environmental equity in zoning and planning decisions, highlights the need for utility and infrastructure policy to prioritize underserved and vulnerable communities historically overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in resilient systems; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of CABO, the Hazel Johnson Ordinance, and ComEd's current and proposed rate structures necessitates a comprehensive, public, and inclusive discussion about the intersection of utility regulation, electrification infrastructure, energy affordability, environmental justice, and pricing fluctuations prone to be overly burdensome on communities of color;

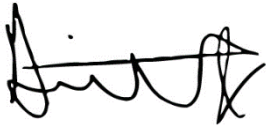
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby call upon the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy to convene a subject matter hearing to examine:

1. the structure and trajectory of ComEd's electricity pricing, including fixed charges, peak pricing, time-of-use billing, and approved or pending rate hikes;
2. ComEd's current grid infrastructure capacity and resilience, and its ability to support projected increases in electricity demand stemming from building electrification and EV adoption;
3. the economic and equity implications of CABO and the Hazel Johnson Ordinance on utility costs, infrastructure needs, and energy access, particularly in Black, Brown, and low-income communities;

4. the planning, prioritization, and financing of grid upgrades by ComEd, and whether those align with the city's current and future climate initiatives;
5. the role of the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), and regulatory safeguards in overseeing and shaping utility pricing and planning decisions; and
6. community engagement, transparency, and data-sharing efforts by ComEd in helping Chicagoans understand and adapt to shifting energy systems and costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that representatives from ComEd, the Illinois Commerce Commission, the Department of Technology and Innovation, the Department of Environment, the Department of Planning and Development, the Department of Public Health including at least one representative from the Office of Environmental Permitting, the Department of Buildings, the Department of Housing, and members of the public shall be invited to such hearing to provide testimony on the foregoing issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy shall compile and circulate to the members of City Council a report of the testimony, findings, and any recommendations from such hearing to inform future legislative, regulatory, and budgetary decisions to ensure a just, affordable, and resilient energy future for all residents of the City.



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