

SAMPLE BUSINESS LETTER ON YOUR COMPANY LETTERHEAD

Dear _____:

Your help is needed. The price of electricity in our region has increased significantly over the past several years, which directly affects my cost to do business. I have to absorb these additional costs or pass them on to my customers, and neither option is very desirable. The state of our economy is only making the situation worse.

INSERT PERSONAL STORY ON HOW HIGH ELECTRICITY RATES ARE IMPACTING YOUR BUSINESS - EXAMPLE:

My business, (name of business) has been in operation in (name of Town) for more than ____ years. I know the community, I've given back to the community, and I want to remain here. But the economic downturns, coupled with my increasing business costs including my cost for electricity, have begun to challenge my ability to stay above water. For example, just last quarter.....

My municipal electric utility has tried to keep rates stable and I understand that fossil fuel prices have been very volatile of late. But there is another factor driving up electricity prices: the failure of electric deregulation to produce truly competitive markets in New England. Competition was supposed to lower electricity prices, but my electric bill keeps increasing.

Under ISO New England, which is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), power generators are allowed to sell electricity at whatever price the market will bear under the theory that there is sufficient competition to protect electricity customers and produce fair rates. Competition is also supposed to spur investments in new electricity facilities to meet growing demand and prevent blackouts.

But the results have not been promising. Prices continue to rise almost twice as fast as in regions of the country where wholesale electricity markets operate under a different structure. Some electric power generators are reaping enormous profits, and little of that appears to be directed at investments in new power plants. This is not surprising, of course, since there is more profit in scarcity than in adequacy. As all energy costs continue to remain volatile and the economic outlook remains troubled, we can ill-afford such profiteering in a service as essential to our economy as electricity.

Since this is a matter of interstate commerce, state and local officials have no authority to intervene. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the agency that has oversight of wholesale electricity markets and entities like ISO-New England. The Federal Power Act is clear in its direction to FERC to protect consumers and to ensure that wholesale electricity rates are "just and reasonable". WE need FERC to be much more aggressive in exercising this authority.

I ask that you and your colleagues please do the following:

- Urge Congress to hold oversight hearings on whether ISO-New England and the other regional transmission organizations are providing real economic benefits to electric consumers, and
- Urge FERC to insist that ISO-New England and the other regional transmission organizations take steps to reduce costs to consumers.

My public power utility, the Wallingford Electric Division, brought this to my attention and now I'm asking for your. The price for electricity in supposedly competitive electric market areas is much higher than it should be. Please ensure that our power systems work economically and fairly for all of us.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro
59 Elm Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Senator Christopher Dodd
30 Lewis
Suite 101
Hartford, CT 06103

Senator Joseph Lieberman
One Constitution Plaza
7th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103