Overview Backup

For more than a decade in elected office, Peter Oberacker has voted to make life more expensive for Upstate New Yorkers

For More Than A Decade In Elected Office, Peter Oberacker Has Voted To Make Life More Expensive For Upstate New Yorkers

2013-2026: Oberacker Served In Elected Office

2024: Oberacker Was Re-Elected To Serve As A State Senator. [New York State Board of Elections, 11/5/24]

2024 New York State Senate District 51 Election Results		
Candidate	**Vote Total**	**Vote Percentage**
Peter Oberacker (REP)	81,783	53%
Michael Frazier (DEM)	55,620	36%
Peter Oberacker (CON)	9,499	6%
Michale Frazier (WOR)	6,865	4%

[New York State Board of Elections, 11/5/24]

2022: Oberacker Was Re-Elected To Serve As A State Senator. [New York State Board of Elections, 11/8/22]

2022 New York State Senate District 51 Election Results		
Candidate	**Vote Total**	**Vote Percentage**
Peter Oberacker (REP)	74,508	62%
Eric Ball (DEM)	44,938	38%

[New York State Board of Elections, 11/8/22]

2020: Oberacker Was Elected To Serve As A State Senator. [New York State Board of Elections, 11/3/20]

2020 New York State Senate District 51 Election Results		
Candidate	**Vote Total**	**Vote Percentage**
Peter Oberacker (REP)	73,000	54%
Jim Barber (DEM)	58,691	45%

[New York State Board of Elections, 11/3/20]

2019: Oberacker Was Re-Elected To Serve As An Otsego County Representative. [Otsego County Board of Elections, Election Results, 11/5/19]

2019 Otsego County Representative District 6 Election Results		
Candidate	**Vote Total**	**Vote Percentage**
Peter Oberacker (REP)	884	99%
Write-In	11	1%

[Otsego County Board of Elections, Election Results, 11/5/19]

2017: Oberacker Was Re-Elected To Serve As An Otsego County Representative. [Otsego County Board of Elections, Election Results, 11/7/17]

2017 Otsego County Representative District 6 Election Results		
Candidate	**Vote Total**	**Vote Percentage**
Peter Oberacker (REP)	1,007	72%
Chad McEvoy (DEM)	401	28%

[Otsego County Board of Elections, Election Results, 11/7/17]

2015: Oberacker Was Elected To Serve As An Otsego County Representative. [Otsego County Board of Elections, Election Results, 11/3/15]

2015 Otsego County Representative District 6 Election Results		
Candidate	**Vote Total**	**Vote Percentage**
Peter Oberacker (REP)	718	75%
Peter Oberacker (CON)	121	13%
Peter Oberacker (IND)	106	11%
Peter Oberacker (REF)	13	1%

[Otsego County Board of Elections, Election Results, 11/3/15]

2013: Oberacker Was Elected To Serve As The Town Of Maryland Supervisor. [Otsego County Board of Elections, Election Results, 11/5/13]

2013 Maryland Supervisor Election Results		
Candidate	**Vote Total**	**Vote Percentage**
Peter Oberacker (REP)	421	99.8%
William Fredette (WRT)	1	0.2%

[Otsego County Board of Elections, Election Results, 11/5/13]

Oberacker Repeatedly Voted To Make Life More Expensive For New Yorkers

2016-2019: Otsego County Budgets Passed During Oberacker's Tenure Raised Taxes By Nearly $800,000

Otsego County Budgets For Budget Years 2017-2020 Raised Taxes By A Total Of $789,872

Otsego County Budgets For Budget Years 2017-2020 Raised Taxes By A Total Of $789,872. [Otsego County Adopted Budgets: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020]

Otsego County Budget Tax Increases For 2017-2020 Budget Years			
Budget Year	**Budget Levy Request**	**Tax Increase ($)**	**Tax Increase (%)**
2020	$12,144,437	$436,625	3.73%
2019	$11,707,812	$300,056	2.63%
2018	$11,407,756	$7,591	0.07%
2017	$11,400,165	$45,600	0.40%
	TOTAL:	**$789,872**	

[Otsego County Adopted Budgets: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020]

2019: Oberacker Voted For A Budget That Raised Taxes In Otsego County

December 2019: Oberacker Voted To Adopt The Otsego County Budget For 2020. In December 2020, Oberacker voted for Resolution No. 293-20191204 (amended): "Adopting Otsego County budget for 2020." The resolution passed unanimously. [Otsego County Board of Representatives, Meeting Minutes, 12/4/19]

- **The 2020 Otsego County Budget Increased The Tax Levy By 3.73% From The Previous Year.** "The Tentative 2020 Budget detailed in the pages that follow requests total appropriations of $119,432,040 and estimates revenues, transfers, fund balance and reserve appropriations of $107,287,603. The subsequent 2020 budget levy request is $12,144,437 presenting a 3.73% increase over the 2019 budget levy " [Otsego County, 2020 Adopted Budget, 11/15/19]

2018: Oberacker Voted For A Budget That Raised Taxes In Otsego County

December 2018: Oberacker Voted To Adopt The Otsego County Budget For 2019. In December 2018, Oberacker voted for Resolution No. 322-20181205: "Adopting Otsego County budget for 2019; 'Making appropriations for the conduct of Otsego County Government for the year 2019'" The resolution passed unanimously. [Otsego County Board of Representatives, Meeting Minutes, 12/5/18]

- **The 2019 Otsego County Budget Increased The Tax Levy By 2.63% From The Previous Year.** "The Tentative 2019 Budget detailed in the pages that follow requests total appropriations of $116,136,309 and estimates revenues, transfers, und balance and reserve appropriations of $104,385,797. The subsequent 2019 budget levy request is $11,707,812 presenting a 2.63% increase over the 2018 budget levy." [Otsego County, 2019 Adopted Budget, 11/15/18]

2017: Oberacker Served On The Otsego County Board When It Adopted A Budget That Raised Taxes In Otsego County

December 6, 2017: The Otsego County Board Of Representatives Adopted The 2018 Budget. In December 2017, the Otsego County Board of Representatives adopted the 2018 County Budget under Resolution No. 320-20171206: "adopting Otsego County budget for 2018." Resolution No. 32-20171206 acknowledged "this Board, by Resolution No. 320 of 2017, has adopted a budget for the fiscal year 2018, pursuant to Section 360 of the County Law." [Otsego County Board of Representatives, Meeting Minutes, 12/6/17]

- **2017: Oberacker Was Present At The December 6 Meeting.** [Otsego County Board of Representatives, Meeting Minutes, 12/6/17]

REGULAR SESSION
FIRST DAY

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

The Board Chair called the Board to order, the roll was called and the following Representatives were found to be present:

Frazier, Powers, Clark, Stammel, Kennedy, Oberacker, Bliss, Marietta, McCarty, Wilber, Koutnik, Gelbsman, Carson, Stuligross.

[Otsego County Board of Representatives, Meeting Minutes, 12/6/17]

2024: Oberacker Voted Against Expanding The Empire State Child Tax Credit

2024: Oberacker Voted Against S8306C, The FY 2024-25 State Education, Labor, Housing And Family Assistance Budget. In April of 2024 Oberacker voted against S8306C: "Enacts into law major components of legislation necessary to implement the state education, labor, housing and family assistance budget for the 2024-2025 state fiscal year; relates to requirements under contracts for excellence; relates to calculation of foundation aid; relates to allowable transportation expenses" The bill passed the Senate (36-24) and was signed into law by Governor Hochul. [New York State Senate, S8306C, 4/19/24]

- **The FY 2024-25 State Education, Labor, Housing And Family Assistance Budget Included $350 Million For The Empire State Child Credit (ESCC).** "On April 22, 2024 the Governor and State Legislature adopted the $237 billion SFY 2024-2025 budget. In some areas, the state made steps towards significantly enhancing the lives of children and families, including by ensuring continuous Medicaid coverage for children age 0-6; enhancing access to child-care for immigrant families; enhancing funding for anti-hunger programs; increasing Early Intervention rates; and strengthening access to behavioral health for families with commercial insurance. […] Enacted Budget does not enhance the State child tax credit for the poorest New Yorkers or increase the credit amount. However, the Enacted Budget includes $350 million for a one-year supplemental tax credit to those eligible for the Empire State Child Credit" [Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Budget Analysis & Priorities, 4/30/24]

- **The FY 2024-25 State Education, Labor, Housing And Family Assistance Budget Included "A $50 Million Anti-Poverty Pilot Program."** "The recently enacted State Budget for State Fiscal Year 2024-25 includes measures that could have near-term impacts on the most severe pockets of child poverty in the state, including a $50 million anti-poverty pilot program using federal funds for families with children living in concentrated areas of poverty in Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo. If this initiative is successful, it could serve as a model to fight child poverty statewide." [Office of the New York State Comptroller, Child Poverty Report, 5/16/24]

2025: Oberacker Voted Against A Middle Class Tax Cut

May 2025: Oberacker Voted Against S3009C, A FY 2025-26 State Budget Bill. In May of 2025 Oberacker voted against S3009C: "Enacts into law major components of legislation which are necessary to implement the state fiscal plan for the 2025-2026 state fiscal year; relates to establishing an inflation refund credit (Part A); provides for a middle-class tax cut; extends the temporary personal income tax high income surcharge (Part B)." The bill passed the Senate (35-27) and was signed into law by Governor Hochul. [New York State Senate, S3009C, 5/8/25]

- **S3009C Provided A Tax Cut To New York's Middle Class.** "S3009C/A3009C: State fiscal plan, tax and revenue act […] The bill cuts New York's middle-class income tax rates by 0.1%. That means that for the bottom bracket, up to $17,150, a 4% rate becomes 3.9%, and in the next bracket up, 5.5% becomes 5.4%." [ABC News 10, 5/9/25]

Oberacker Message #1 Backup

In Albany, Oberacker cashed a check from NYSEG's corporate PAC days after they raised rates. Then he repeatedly voted to let them charge Upstate New Yorkers more. He voted to let utility monopolies charge predatory fees to pad their own profits, and he voted against $200 million to help lower bills.

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05/09/2025	$250.00	Avangrid New York PAC		PO Box 5224 Binghamton NY 13902 United States	C - Monetary Contributions Received From All Other	Political Action Committee (PAC)		Friends of Peter Oberacker 2026 - ID# 506856

[New York State Board of Elections, Contributions Search, 5/9/25]

May 1st, 2025: NYSEG Raised Rates On Residential Electricity Customers By An Average Of $11.34 Per Month. "NYSEG has filed tariff revisions October 27, 2023 with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) for new electricity and natural gas delivery rates to become effective May 1, 2025. These tariff revisions cover the third annual delivery rate increase under the terms of a three-year rate plan approved by the PSC in October 2023, and they include a $200.6 million increase in electricity revenue and a $12.9 million increase in natural gas revenue. These tariff revisions also recover revenue shortfalls for the electric service classes for the period May 1, 2023 to November 1, 2023. A residential electricity customer with an average use of 600 kilowatt-hours/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of $11.34. A residential natural gas heating customer using 100 therms/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of $4.10. You may see some charges prorated on your May or June bill to take into account energy delivered before and after the new electricity and natural gas delivery rates went into effect." [NYSEG, April 2025]

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Then He Repeatedly Voted To Let Them Charge Upstate New Yorkers More.

DCCC

June 2025: Oberacker Voted Against Multiple Bills That Would End A Gas Hookup Mandate Which Cost New Yorkers More Than $1 Billion In Utility Charges Due To Rate Hikes From 2017-2021

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- **S8417 Eliminated New York's 100-Foot Rule, A Mandatory Gas-Hookup Rule That Required Utility Companies To Supply Natural Gas To Any Customer Within 100 Feet Of An Existing Line, Subsidized By Ratepayers.** "The New York State legislature has passed bill S8417/A8888, which repeals a rule that required utility companies to supply natural gas to any customer within 100 feet of an existing line, with the cost falling on ratepayers. The bill covers a portion of what was in the NY HEAT Act." [National Resources Defense Council, 6/17/25]

June 2025: Oberacker Voted Against S8421, The "Customer Savings And Reliability Act." In June 2025, Oberacker voted against S8421: "Enacts the 'Customer Savings and Reliability Act' in relation to regional affordable gas transition plans to guide an orderly, affordable, and equitable right-sizing of the utility gas system in a manner that aligns with climate justice and emissions reduction provisions." The bill passed the Senate (36-23) and was referred to the Assembly's Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions. [New York State Senate, S8421, 6/12/25]

- **S8421 Would Have Eliminated A Longstanding Rule That Mandated Utility Providers Supply Gas To Customers That Were Within 100 Feet Of An Existing Gas Line Who Requested Service**. "From the state lawmakers who brought you the NY HEAT Act, enter the Customer Savings and Reliability Act. The new bill was introduced Monday with literally no time to spare if the Senate is to pass it and leave town Thursday given the three-day aging period required for new legislation. Nearly two weeks ago, Spectrum News 1 reported that the NY HEAT was undergoing significant amending to address concerns in the state Assembly. After about two weeks under the hood, state Sen. Liz Krueger revealed that lawmakers have retrofitted the NY HEAT — which sought to aline New York's utility policy with its move away from fossil fuels — into a new bill altogether. […] Krueger said the new bill will still eliminate the 100-foot rule, given New York's impending all electric construction mandate. The law requires that utility companies supply gas to any customer who wants it with the cost falling on ratepayers if they are within 100 feet of an existing line and advocates blame the rule for contributing to rate hikes." [Spectrum News 1, 6/10/25]

The "100-Foot Rule" Increased Energy Costs For Existing Ratepayers, Forcing Them To Pay An Extra $1 Billion In Utility Costs ($48 Million Total For NYSEG And RG&E Customers) From 2017-2021

New York's Subsidized Gas Line Extensions, Provided Under The 100-Foot Rule, Were Subsidized Through "Increased Costs For Existing Utility Customers." "In New York, the '100 Foot Rule' requires utilities to connect new customers to a gas line for free based on how close their property is to an existing main gas line, typically within 100 feet. These subsides are paid for by increasing costs for existing utility customers and, in New York, are required in Public Service Law, in a provision commonly known as the '100 Foot Rule.' The Public Service Commission has allowed utilities to expand this entitlement, for residential and nonresidential customers. Newly released utility data enables estimation of annual ratepayer costs of these subsidies." [Rocky Mountain Institute, New York Subsidized Gas Line Extensions, 12/1/22]

- **2017-2021: The Rocky Mountain Institute Estimated That New York's 100 Foot Rule Cost New Yorkers More Than $1 Billion.** [Rocky Mountain Institute, New York Subsidized Gas Line Extensions, 12/1/22]

Estimating the Costs of New York's 100 Foot Rule

Methodology

In August 2022, New York's Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) **published costs** associated with extending gas service to new customers, including components subsidized by ratepayers. The filing followed a directive from the Public Service Commission to share this data, as part of Proceeding No. 20-G-0131, Proceeding on Motion of the Commission in Regard to Gas Planning Procedures.

LDCs issued a joint filing with new customer counts for residential and non-residential customers, length of average service line and gas main extensions, as well as the costs per foot for a five-year period from 2017 to 2021. This filing did not provide total, aggregated costs to ratepayers.

RMI used this data to estimate total annual ratepayer costs. Estimates were calibrated against other sources where available, including National Grid's **May 12 filing on gas connection costs** within KEDNY and KEDLI territories.

Local Distribution Company	Estimated Ratepayer Costs
Central Hudson G&E	$69M
ConEd	$337M
Corning Natural Gas	$1.2M
Liberty Utilities	$4M
National Fuel Gas	$19M
National Grid - KEDLI	$220M
National Grid - KEDNY	$256M
National Grid - Upstate	$67M
NYSEG	$37M
Orange & Rockland	$22M
Rochester Gas & Electric	$11M
Estimated Total	$1,043M

2017–2021

[Rocky Mountain Institute, New York Subsidized Gas Line Extensions, 12/1/22]

He Voted To Let Utility Monopolies Charge Predatory Fees To Pad Their Own Profits, And He Voted Against $200 Million To Help Lower Bills

March 2024: Oberacker Voted Against Limiting Predatory Fixed Charges That Utility Companies Added To New Yorkers' Bills

March 2024: Oberacker Voted Against S1303B: Limiting The Fixed Charges That Utilities Can Recover From Residents. In March 2024, Oberacker voted against S1303B: "Directs the department of public service to adjust each utility corporation's residential fixed charge upon such corporation's filing with the department of an amendment of rate schedules, to recover only the fixed costs and operation and maintenance expenses directly related to metering, billing, service connections and the provision of customer service." The bill passed the Senate (48-14) and stalled in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. [New York State Senate, S1303B, 3/19/24]

Acadia Center: Fixed Charges Were Flat Monthly Fees That Every Consumer Paid Regardless Of Their Energy Usage. "Fixed charges – also known as basic service charges or customer charges – are the flat monthly fees that every customer pays, regardless of the amount of electricity consumed. Over the past several years, utilities across the country have pushed for higher fixed charges because they provide a guaranteed revenue stream. However, high fixed charges violate well-established regulatory principles, reduce incentives for energy efficiency and clean local generation, and result in higher bills for low-usage customers who are disproportionately low income. [Acadia Center, July 2017]

Fixed Charges Disproportionately Affected Low Income Users And Provided Higher Guaranteed Revenue Streams To Utility Companies

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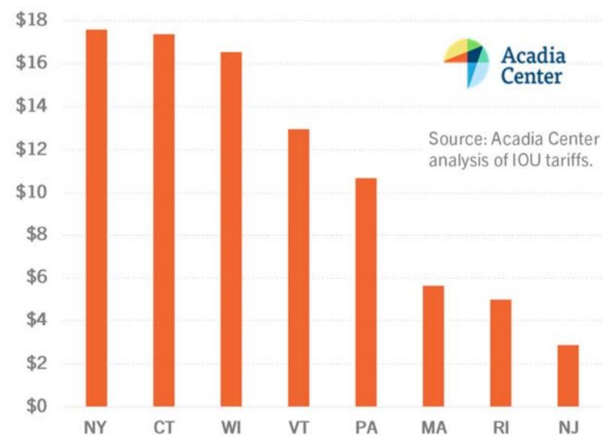
- **According To The Acadia Center, "Utilities Across The Country Have Pushed For Higher Fixed Charges Because They Provide A Guaranteed Revenue Stream" And New York Had Higher Fixed Charges Than Those In Surrounding States.** "Over the past several years, utilities across the country have pushed for higher fixed charges because they provide a guaranteed revenue stream. […] New York has very high residential fixed charges from a national perspective, and its fixed charges are also higher than those in neighboring states. For example, National Grid has a residential fixed charge of $17 in New York, but only $5 in Rhode Island and $5.50 in Massachusetts. Connecticut recently reduced the residential fixed charge for one utility from $17.25 to $9.67, and New York should follow suit. High fixed charges are ultimately incompatible with the energy future envisioned by New York's Reforming the Energy Vision ('REV') initiative." [Acadia Center, July 2017]

Comparison of Residential Fixed Charges by State

Figure 1 below shows the current average residential customer charges for investor-owned utilities ("IOUs") with over 15,000 residential customers, weighted by the number of customers, for New York and neighboring states, as well as Wisconsin and Rhode Island. The Wisconsin Public Service Commission has been widely criticized for approving large fixed charge increases since 2014.[1] However, New York's residential fixed charges for full service customers, ranging from $15.92 to $24 per month, are higher than those in Wisconsin and every single neighboring state.

Figure 1 – Weighted Average of Current Residential Customer Charges for Major IOUs



[Acadia Center, July 2017]

Solar United Neighbors: "Fixed Charges Tend To Be Bad For Customers, But Good For Profit-Seeking Utilities." "Fixed charges tend to be bad for customers, but good for profit-seeking utilities. Unlike variable charges, customers can't reduce fixed charges by going solar, conserving energy, or making efficiency upgrades. Fixed charges discourage efficiency and limit homeowners' ability to save money with solar." [Solar United Neighbors, 5/16/24]

May 2023: Oberacker Voted Against Providing $200 Million In Utility Relief For Low Income New Yorkers

May 2023: Oberacker Voted Against S4003D, A FY 2024 Aid To Localities State Budget Bill. In May of 2023 Oberacker voted against S4003D: "Makes appropriations for the support of government - Aid to Localities Budget." The bill passed the Senate (43-20) and was signed by Governor Hochul. [New York State Senate, S40003D, 5/2/23]

- **S40003D Provided $200 Million In Utility Bill Relief To New Yorkers Who Did Not Qualify For An Existing Energy Affordability Policy Program But Whose Income Was Below The State Median Income.** "For prompt assistance to utility customers related to the costs of utility affordability programs authorized by the Public Service Commission and administered by the Department of Public Service, in consultation with the energy affordability policy working group. Additionally, the department shall establish a new, expanded discount program to provide utility bill relief to utility customers, in consultation with the energy affordability policy working group, for residential customers that do not currently qualify for the energy affordability policy program but whose income is below the state median income, provided however that the Public Service Commission shall consider the feasibility of using area median income or other eligibility thresholds in the event the use of state median income prevents reaching all households that have an energy burden greater than six percent. Residential customers of electric corporations regulated by the Public

Service Commission and the Long Island Power Authority, and its service provider shall be eligible to participate in the new, expanded discount program." [New York State Senate, S40003D, 5/2/23]

- **S40003D Established An Energy Affordable Guarantee, Ensuring Empower Plus Program Participants Did Not Have An Energy Burden Greater Than Six Percent Of Their Household Income**. "The department shall also establish a program for such purpose to provide an energy affordability guarantee to participating residential customers in the EmPower Plus Program administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority who electrify their homes in accordance with program standards required by the authority; provided, however, that the department is authorized to establish a cap on a residential customer's annual total electric usage by kilowatt hour applicable to the guarantee when establishing such program. The energy affordability guarantee shall provide that any participating residential customers in the EmPower Plus Program shall spend no more than six percent of household income on electric utility bills for the estimated useful life of the related electrification project." [New York State Senate, S40003D, 5/2/23]

Oberacker Message #2 Backup

In Albany, Oberacker cashed a check from NYSEG's corporate PAC just days after they raised rates. Then he repeatedly voted to let them charge Upstate New Yorkers more. He voted to let utility companies rip off customers with predatory fees that pad their own profits, and backed a government mandate that has cost New Yorkers more than $1 billion on their utility bills.

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- **S8421 Would Have Eliminated A Longstanding Rule That Mandated Utility Providers Supply Gas To Customers That Were Within 100 Feet Of An Existing Gas Line Who Requested Service**. "From the state lawmakers who brought you the NY HEAT Act, enter the Customer Savings and Reliability Act. The new bill was introduced Monday with literally no time to spare if the Senate is to pass it and leave town Thursday given the three-day aging period required for new legislation. Nearly two weeks ago, Spectrum News 1 reported that the NY HEAT was undergoing significant amending to address concerns in the state Assembly. After about two weeks under the hood, state Sen. Liz Krueger revealed that lawmakers have retrofitted the NY HEAT — which sought to aline New York's utility policy with its move away from fossil fuels — into a new bill altogether. […] Krueger said the new bill will still eliminate the 100-foot rule, given New York's impending all electric construction mandate. The law requires that utility companies supply gas to any customer who wants it with the cost falling on ratepayers if they are within 100 feet of an existing line and advocates blame the rule for contributing to rate hikes." [Spectrum News 1, 6/10/25]

The "100-Foot Rule" Increased Energy Costs For Existing Ratepayers, Forcing Them To Pay An Extra $1 Billion In Utility Costs ($48 Million Total For NYSEG And RG&E Customers) From 2017-2021

New York's Subsidized Gas Line Extensions, Provided Under The 100-Foot Rule, Were Subsidized Through "Increased Costs For Existing Utility Customers." "In New York, the '100 Foot Rule' requires utilities to connect new customers to a gas line for free based on how close their property is to an existing main gas line, typically within 100 feet. These subsides are paid for by increasing costs for existing utility customers and, in New York, are required in Public Service Law, in a provision commonly known as the '100 Foot Rule.' The Public Service Commission has allowed utilities to expand this entitlement, for residential and nonresidential customers. Newly released utility data enables estimation of annual ratepayer costs of these subsidies." [Rocky Mountain Institute, New York Subsidized Gas Line Extensions, 12/1/22]

- **2017-2021: The Rocky Mountain Institute Estimated That New York's 100 Foot Rule Cost New Yorkers More Than $1 Billion.** [Rocky Mountain Institute, New York Subsidized Gas Line Extensions, 12/1/22]

Estimating the Costs of New York's 100 Foot Rule

Methodology

In August 2022, New York's Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) **published costs** associated with extending gas service to new customers, including components subsidized by ratepayers. The filing followed a directive from the Public Service Commission to share this data, as part of Proceeding No. 20-G-0131, Proceeding on Motion of the Commission in Regard to Gas Planning Procedures.

LDCs issued a joint filing with new customer counts for residential and non-residential customers, length of average service line and gas main extensions, as well as the costs per foot for a five-year period from 2017 to 2021. This filing did not provide total, aggregated costs to ratepayers.

RMI used this data to estimate total annual ratepayer costs. Estimates were calibrated against other sources where available, including National Grid's **May 12 filing on gas connection costs** within KEDNY and KEDLI territories.

Local Distribution Company	Estimated Ratepayer Costs
Central Hudson G&E	$69M
ConEd	$337M
Corning Natural Gas	$1.2M
Liberty Utilities	$4M
National Fuel Gas	$19M
National Grid - KEDLI	$220M
National Grid - KEDNY	$256M
National Grid - Upstate	$67M
NYSEG	$37M
Orange & Rockland	$22M
Rochester Gas & Electric	$11M
Estimated Total	$1,043M

2017–2021

[Rocky Mountain Institute, New York Subsidized Gas Line Extensions, 12/1/22]

He Voted To Let Utility Companies Rip Off Customers With Predatory Fees That Pad Their Own Profits…

March 2024: Oberacker Voted Against Limiting Predatory Fixed Charges That Utility Companies Added To New Yorkers' Bills

March 2024: Oberacker Voted Against S1303B: Limiting The Fixed Charges That Utilities Can Recover From Residents. In March 2024, Oberacker voted against S1303B: "Directs the department of public service to adjust each utility corporation's residential fixed charge upon such corporation's filing with the department of an amendment of rate schedules, to recover only the fixed costs and operation and maintenance expenses directly related to metering, billing, service connections and the provision of customer service." The bill passed the Senate (48-14) and stalled in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. [New York State Senate, S1303B, 3/19/24]

Acadia Center: Fixed Charges Were Flat Monthly Fees That Every Consumer Paid Regardless Of Their Energy Usage. "Fixed charges – also known as basic service charges or customer charges – are the flat monthly fees that every customer pays, regardless of the amount of electricity consumed. Over the past several years, utilities across the country have pushed for higher fixed charges because they provide a guaranteed revenue stream. However, high fixed charges violate well-established regulatory principles, reduce incentives for energy efficiency and clean local generation, and result in higher bills for low-usage customers who are disproportionately low income. [Acadia Center, July 2017]

Fixed Charges Disproportionately Affected Low Income Users And Provided Higher Guaranteed Revenue Streams To Utility Companies

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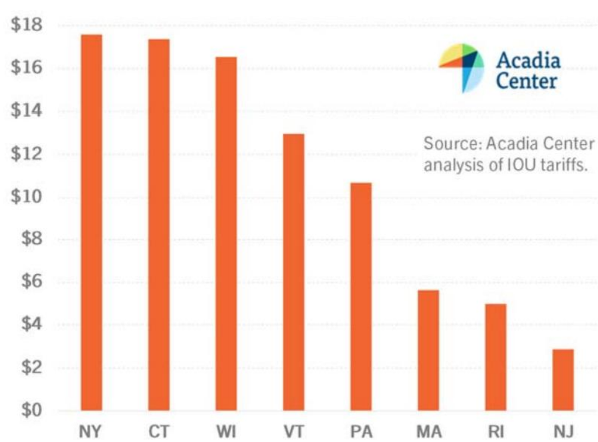
- **According To The Acadia Center, "Utilities Across The Country Have Pushed For Higher Fixed Charges Because They Provide A Guaranteed Revenue Stream" And New York Had Higher Fixed Charges Than Those In Surrounding States.** "Over the past several years, utilities across the country have pushed for higher fixed charges because they provide a guaranteed revenue stream. […] New York has very high residential fixed charges from a national perspective, and its fixed charges are also higher than those in neighboring states. For example, National Grid has a residential fixed charge of $17 in New York, but only $5 in Rhode Island and $5.50 in Massachusetts. Connecticut recently reduced the residential fixed charge for one utility from $17.25 to $9.67, and New York should follow suit. High fixed charges are ultimately incompatible with the energy future envisioned by New York's Reforming the Energy Vision ('REV') initiative." [Acadia Center, July 2017]

Comparison of Residential Fixed Charges by State

Figure 1 below shows the current average residential customer charges for investor-owned utilities ("IOUs") with over 15,000 residential customers, weighted by the number of customers, for New York and neighboring states, as well as Wisconsin and Rhode Island. The Wisconsin Public Service Commission has been widely criticized for approving large fixed charge increases since 2014.[1] However, New York's residential fixed charges for full service customers, ranging from $15.92 to $24 per month, are higher than those in Wisconsin and every single neighboring state.

Figure 1 – Weighted Average of Current Residential Customer Charges for Major IOUs



[Acadia Center, July 2017]

Solar United Neighbors: "Fixed Charges Tend To Be Bad For Customers, But Good For Profit-Seeking Utilities." "Fixed charges tend to be bad for customers, but good for profit-seeking utilities. Unlike variable charges, customers can't reduce fixed charges by going solar, conserving energy, or making efficiency upgrades. Fixed charges discourage efficiency and limit homeowners' ability to save money with solar." [Solar United Neighbors, 5/16/24]

… And Backed A Government Mandate That Has Cost New Yorkers More Than $1 Billion On Their Utility Bills.

June 2025: Oberacker Voted Against Multiple Bills That Would End A Gas Hookup Mandate Which Cost New Yorkers More Than $1 Billion In Utility Charges Due To Rate Hikes From 2017-2021

June 2025: Oberacker Voted Against Three Separate Attempts To End The "100-Foot Rule," Which Required Ratepayers To Subsidize Free Gas Hookups For Customers Within 100 Feet Of A Main Gas Line

June 2025: Oberacker Voted Against S8417. In June 2025, Oberacker voted against S8417: "Provides that in the case of any application for gas service to a building which is not supplied with gas, a utility corporation or municipality shall be obligated to provide gas service to such building." The bill passed the Senate (34-25) and was signed into law by the Governor. [New York State Senate, S8417, 6/12/25]

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2017–2021

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