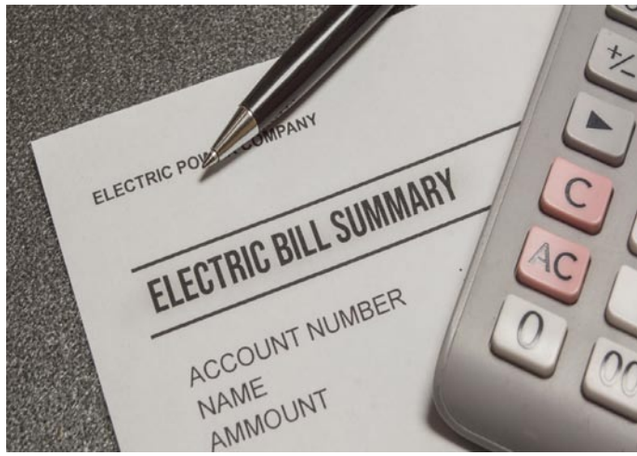
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## Why Is My Electric Bill So High, and What Can We Do About It?

By Senator Rosemary Brown




I am often asked why electricity bills continue to rise, and I understand the frustration many Pennsylvania families face. It is a complex issue with several contributing factors, so I wanted to take a closer look at what is driving these costs higher and, more importantly, what we can do in Harrisburg to help make electricity more affordable.

At its core, it is a supply and demand issue. Electricy demand is growing, but new power plants are not being built quickly enough to replace retiring facilities to meet the demand. In fact, just this week, the Department of Energy issued an emergency order effective from Oct. 13 to Oct. 16 to authorize PJM Interconnection, which operates our regional grid, to use extra backup generation resources as needed to keep the power on.

We need to increase our electricity supply, reduce unnecessary taxes, and ensure large energy users are not receiving special advantages.

While free market supply and demand factors play a role, government policies and taxes also contribute to what consumers pay. This is why I opposed Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which would have imposed additional costs on electricity generation. This stagnated investment into energy production, limiting supply to our grid. The state's impartial research agency estimated that implementation of RGGI in our Commonwealth would nearly quadruple electricity prices. In 2025, I voted to formally withdrawal Pennsylvania from RGGI.

This year, I voted to eliminate Pennsylvania's Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) on electricity, a tax paid by electric utility companies that is passed along to consumers in their bills. Eliminating this tax would provide relief as energy expenses continue to rise. This bill is awaiting consideration in the House of Representatives.

I also voted to remove the sales tax exemption for data centers in House Bill 1667. Removing this exemption would ensure data centers pay sales tax on qualifying purchases rather than receiving a special tax break.

I will continue supporting commonsense policies that increase our energy supply, responsibly manage growing demand and ultimately help lower electricity costs for ratepayers.

## Pocono Pony Shared Ride-Along

By Senator Rosemary Brown




Sen. Rosemary Brown stands with a group of women from other legislative offices, transportation services, and more during the Pocono Pony Shared Ride-Along.

On Thursday, I appreciated the opportunity to join the Monroe County Transit Authority for its Shared Ride Ride-Along!

Hearing directly from riders about how dependable, accessible transportation in the 40th District impacts their daily lives is a valuable reminder of why these services matter.

Thank you to Pocono Pony, the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association, COLTS (County of Lackawanna Transit System), and everyone who works to keep our communities connected and ensure residents can access the transportation they need!