

**LEGISLATIVE, RULES & GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

**MARCH 28, 2025**

***Committee Members: Supervisors Strough, Conover, Wild, Driscoll, Maday, Geraci and Thomas  
Chair of the Board shall serve as an Ex-Officio member when needed in accordance  
with Section C(4) of the Rules of the Board***

- I. Committee meeting called to order by Committee Chair
- II. Approval of minutes of prior Committee meeting - *January 30, 2025*
- III. Privilege of the Floor/Public Comment
- IV. Action Agenda/New Business Items:
  1. Referral from the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board seeking a resolution mirroring Essex County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 60 of 2025 (attached) concerning recognition for Adirondack Park Agency Executive Director Barbara Rice.
- V. Discussion Items: None.
- VI. Referrals/Pending Items:
  1. Cattaraugus County Legislature Resolution No. 268 of 2024, "*Urging New York State Public Service Commission to Reject National Grid's Proposed Rate Increases for Electric and Natural Gas*". Following discussions with National Grid representatives, Committee determined it was preferable to draft a resolution tailored to Warren County's interests; Mr. Wild to draft for presentation at future Committee meeting.
- VII. Privilege of the Floor to discuss any additional items to come before the Committee
- VIII. Motion to adjourn

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*Attachments:*

- 1) *Essex County Resolution No. 60 of 2025 (Action Agenda/New Business Item 1)*
- 2) *Cattaraugus County Legislative Resolution No. 268 of 2024 (Referral/Pending Item 1)*



## **Essex County Board of Supervisors**

**Resolution No. 60**

**March 3, 2025**  
**Regular Board Meeting**

### **RESOLUTION DECLARING FULL CONFIDENCE IN ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARBARA RICE**

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor McNally, who moved its adoption.

Upon a motion to consider from the floor, and the same appearing proper and necessary.

**WHEREAS**, the Adirondack Park is situate wholly inside Essex County, and over the decades has had a profound impact on all citizens of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board of Supervisors represents thirty thousand residents who call the Adirondack Park their home; and

**WHEREAS**, Essex County closely watched the Barton Mines permit process, as Barton Mines has a large positive impact on southwest Essex County; and

**WHEREAS**, Essex County was pleased by the detail and professionalism of the Adirondack Park Agency presentation of the Barton mines permit; and

**WHEREAS**, Essex County also has recognized the general improvement of the relationship between the Adirondack Park Agency and its residents and municipalities and it's seemingly more cooperative ethos; and

**WHEREAS**, Essex County has found Executive Director Barbara Rice, responsive to questions and making her Staff available to answer questions in a timely manner; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, Essex County believes Executive Director Barbara Rice should be recognized for her work bridging a decades old communications gap. Essex County formally declares full confidence in Executive Director Rice's administration and guidance of the Agency and wishes her well in setting this cooperative direction of the Adirondack Park Agency for the next 50 years.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Essex County believes the current Adirondack Park Agency Commissioners are thoughtful and professional and are dedicated to

# **ACTION AGENDA/NEW BUSINESS ITEM 1**

balancing the needs of this great experiment, Essex County requests Governor Hochul to reappoint all expired Commissioners immediately.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that this resolution be forwarded to: Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Daniel Stec, Assemblyman Matthew Simpson; Assemblyman Billy Jones and New York State Association of Counties.

This resolution was unanimously seconded and duly adopted.

**ACT NO. 268-2024**

by Mr. Benson, Mr. Brisky, Mr. Burr, Mrs. Hunt and Ms. Schröder

**URGING NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
TO REJECT NATIONAL GRID'S PROPOSED  
RATE INCREASES FOR ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS**

Pursuant to Section 153 of the County Law.

I. WHEREAS, National Grid has submitted a request to the New York State Public Service Commission (NYS PSC) asking for a rate increase of 15% for electricity and 20% for natural gas to take effect April 1, 2025, and

II. WHEREAS, these rate increases have to go through the NYS PSC for approval, and

III. WHEREAS, National Grid blames this rate increase on the cost of materials to build and maintain transmission networks, devaluation of the U.S. dollar, and ongoing increases to contractor costs, and

IV. WHEREAS, New York's electricity prices per kilowatt hour are approximately 5.97% higher than the national average, and

V. WHEREAS, said proposed rate increases are a consequence of the New York liberal democratic green energy policies pushing incentives and mandates which ultimately pass the financial burden onto consumers, and

VI. WHEREAS, New York State is responsible for the conditions that have led to the proposed rate increases with its high-cost and price-insensitive energy policies that are detached from the fiscal realities of the ratepayers and consumers, and

VII. WHEREAS, the higher rates will be burdensome on customers at a time when taxpayers are economically strapped through the high cost of inflation, and

VIII. WHEREAS, with the high cost of inflation, Cattaraugus County citizens, including retirees, seniors, those on fixed incomes, not-for-profits and people with disabilities, are living paycheck to paycheck struggling to make ends meet, and

IX. WHEREAS, another increase in another necessity will only create a heavier burden to the burden the citizens are already bearing, and

X. WHEREAS, this is just another reckless, cost insensitive green energy initiative that is being forced on National Grid by irresponsible New York State energy policies, now, therefore, be it

I. RESOLVED, that the Cattaraugus County Legislature hereby further urges the New York State Public Service Commission to reject the excessive rate increases proposed by National Grid for electric and gas, and be it further

II. RESOLVED, that the Cattaraugus County Legislature hereby condemns National Grid for its proposed excessive electric and gas rate increases, and be it further

III. RESOLVED, that the Cattaraugus County Legislature vehemently urges Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to protect the citizens of New York State from these proposed excessive rate increases, and be it further

IV. RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each county in New York State, encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions, and be it further

V. RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Minority Leader Rob Ortt, Assembly Majority Leader Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay, Senator George Borrello, Assemblyman Joseph Giglio, New York State Association of Counties, the Inter-County Association of Western New York, National Grid, and all others deemed necessary and proper.



*This is to Certify that I, the undersigned, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Cattaraugus, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original thereof on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Legislature of said County on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024 and that the same is a true and correct transcript of such resolution and of the whole thereof.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the Legislature of the County of Cattaraugus, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Lori A. Pangborn". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lori A. Pangborn, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature