

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 7, 2025

The Honorable Lee M. Zeldin
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

On Tuesday, you wrote an opinion piece in the Boston Globe about your thoughts on New England's energy grid, attempting to diagnose the issue of rising energy prices in the region.¹ Costs are too high and are only getting higher, but unfortunately, your op-ed failed to mention the immediate source of these rising prices: the actions of your Administration and Republicans in Congress. While energy demand surges, your policies are strangling America's cheapest and quickest-to-deploy sources of energy—solar and wind—by hiking costs, creating insurmountable permitting hurdles, and injecting uncertainty into the market. At the same time, the Trump administration is attempting to kill programs meant to lower energy bills. The end result is fewer affordable megawatts on the grid, higher electricity costs, and less support for struggling American families. If you want to solve the problem of energy costs in New England, we would direct you and your colleagues to immediately address these straightforward sources of uncertainty and increased costs created by the Trump administration.

After a decade of nearly flat growth, energy demand is rising at rates not seen in decades, and prices are growing with it — outpacing inflation.² Household electricity prices have already increased by more than 6 percent since the start of the Trump administration.³ Demand is projected to rise even faster over the next few years, especially as data centers are expected to require as much electricity as about 100 million US homes by the end of the decade.⁴ As of April 2025, \$1.5 billion in electric rate increases were being passed on to households to cover surging demand – with over \$18 billion more in increases requested from utilities.⁵

Because of this surging demand, the key issue we face today is timing—the urgency of bringing new energy resources on-line as soon as possible. We need additional power now. Your

¹ Lee Zeldin, *Building the Constitution Pipeline is vital for New England's grid stability*, Boston Globe, (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/08/05/opinion/constitution-pipeline-new-england-energy-costs/>

² Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Consumer Price Index Summary*, U.S. Department of Labor (July 15, 2025), <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm>.

³ Ariel Zilber *US Electricity Prices Continue to Climb under Trump*, N.Y. Post (July 24, 2025), <https://nypost.com/2025/07/24/business/us-electricity-prices-continue-to-climb-under-trump/>.

⁴ Vivian Lee et al., *Breaking Barriers to Data Center Growth*, BCG (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.bcg.com/publications/2025/breaking-barriers-data-center-growth>.

⁵ Charles Hua, *Utility Bills Are Rising*, PowerLines (Apr. 2025), https://powerlines.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/PowerLines_Utility-Bills-Are-Rising_2025-1.pdf

proposed solution fails even that first test— pipelines and new related turbine infrastructure would not be able to provide any new electric generation capacity for five to seven years after receiving permits. By contrast, solar and wind are available immediately.

It would make economic sense for the gap between supply and demand to be filled by cheap, accessible solar and wind. Utility-scale solar and onshore wind are the cheapest sources of electricity on average to operate and quickest to build – even without subsidies.⁶ The victor of the energy race is clear through the results of the free market. In 2024 alone, wind, solar, and batteries accounted for 94 percent of all new electric generation capacity—with 50,000 megawatts of new solar power, 4,000 megawatts of new wind, and 11,000 megawatts of batteries added to the grid.⁷ Compare these with the 2,500 megawatts of natural gas and zero from coal added last year.⁸ But instead of continuing to meet surging power demand with the energy at our fingertips and allowing the free market to prosper, the Trump administration is doing everything in its power to stymie wind and solar.⁹ The effects of this double standard are not theoretical. So far this year, more than \$22 billion in clean energy projects have been canceled due to Trump administration policies and legislation passed by Republicans in Congress.¹⁰

Republicans’ destructive budget reconciliation bill paid in part for its lavish tax breaks for the wealthy by slashing programs to reduce energy costs. The Republicans’ changes to our tax code hike the cost-per-megawatt of these deployable energy sources—imposing new costs on ratepayers and throwing projects into uncertainty. As a direct result of this legislation, wind deployment is expected to drop by 200,000 megawatts and solar by 150,000 megawatts by 2035, compared to prior estimates.¹¹ This will force families to pay \$130 more on their energy bills in five years.¹² As if that wasn’t enough, last month, the Department of the Interior (DOI) instituted a policy change to require Secretary of Interior Doug Burgum’s personal sign-off on 69 separate tasks for every single solar or wind project connected to public land—27 of which would also

⁶ *Levelized Cost of Energy+ Report*, (June 2024), <https://www.lazard.com/media/xemfey0k/lazards-lcoeplus-june-2024-vf.pdf>

⁷ *Solar Market Insight Report*, Solar Energy Industries Association, (June 9, 2025), <https://seia.org/research-resources/us-solar-market-insight/>; *Clean Energy Dominates in 2024*, American Clean Power, (Mar. 5, 2025), <https://cleanpower.org/news/market-report-2024-snapshot/>

⁸ *Solar and battery storage to make up 81% of new U.S. electric-generating capacity in 2024*, U.S. Energy Information Administration, (Dec. 26, 2024), <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=64126>

⁹ Josh Siegel and Zack Colman, *Trump administration taking new steps to block wind, solar projects, memo says*, Politico, (July 17, 2025), <https://www.eenews.net/articles/trump-administration-taking-new-steps-to-block-wind-solar-projects-memo-says/>

¹⁰ *\$22 Billion in Clean Energy Projects Cancelled in First Half of 2025; \$6.7 Billion Cancelled in June*, E2 (July 24, 2025), <https://e2.org/releases/june-25-clean-economy-works/>

¹¹ *Economic Impacts of U.S. Senate "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" Energy Provisions*, Energy Innovation, (July 2025), https://energyinnovation.org/wp-content/uploads/One-Big-Beautiful-Bill-Senate-Reconciliation-Analysis_July-2025.pdf

¹² *Updated: Economic Impacts of U.S. "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" Energy Provisions*, Energy Innovation, (July 1, 2025), <https://energyinnovation.org/report/updated-economic-impacts-of-u-s-senate-passed-one-big-beautiful-bill-act-energy-provisions/>

apply to projects on private land.¹³ A few weeks later, Trump's DOI came out with new measures to further sabotage wind and solar projects.¹⁴ As of January, the Bureau of Land Management had at least 38 major solar and wind projects in its pipeline—projects that collectively could power more than 9 million homes.¹⁵ All are now at risk of indefinite delay or cancellation. This micromanagement does not apply to oil, gas, or mining projects. And beyond DOI and DOE, under your leadership, the EPA is also attempting to unlawfully seize obligated funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which was designed to enhance American energy independence and lower Americans' energy costs. Both the national clean energy funding network and Solar for All are projected to save households more than \$50 billion, if allowed to proceed.¹⁶

Other countries are moving fast-ahead with wind and solar, recognizing its benefits for affordability, reliability, and public health. Already, China is investing over four times more than the U.S. in renewable energy. In 2024, China installed 357,000 megawatts of wind and solar.¹⁷ That's roughly the amount of wind and solar that the US has installed over our country's entire history.

In addition to trying to keep cheap megawatts of power off the grid, the Trump administration is attacking the programs that directly help households pay and lower their energy bills. In March, Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. fired nearly the entire federal staff responsible for administering the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which millions of households depend on to afford their heating and cooling bills.¹⁸ Trump then proposed to eliminate the entire program in his presidential budget request for

¹³ *Memorandum: Departmental Review Procedures for Decisions, Actions, Consultations, and Other Undertakings Related to Wind and Solar Energy Facilities*, U.S. Dep't of the Interior (July 15, 2025), <https://www.doi.gov/media/document/departamental-review-procedures-decisions-actions-consultations-and-other>; Zack Coleman and Kelsey Tamborrino, *Interior order would disrupt wind, solar projects on private land, industry finds*, Politico (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/08/interior-order-would-disrupt-wind-solar-projects-on-private-land-industry-finds-00494489>.

¹⁴ Press Release, U.S. Dep't of the Interior, Department of the Interior Curbs Preferential Treatment for Wind Energy (July 29, 2025), [doi.gov/pressreleases/departament-interior-curbs-preferential-treatment-wind-energy](https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/departament-interior-curbs-preferential-treatment-wind-energy); James Bikales, *Interior adds another obstacle to wind and solar development*, Politico (Aug. 1, 2025), <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/08/interior-adds-new-obstacle-to-wind-and-solar-development-00489702>.

¹⁵ Scott Streater, *Interior's new solar, wind policy sparks concerns of 'shadow ban'*, E&E News by Politico, (July 18, 2025), <https://www.eenews.net/articles/interiors-new-solar-wind-policy-sparks-concerns-of-shadow-ban/>.

¹⁶ *Clean Energy As Economic Development: An Analysis of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund*, Energy Innovation, (May 13, 2025), <https://energyinnovation.org/report/clean-energy-as-economic-development-an-analysis-of-the-greenhouse-gas-reduction-fund/>.

¹⁷ Sara Schonhardt, *China Invests \$546 Billion in Clean Energy, Far Surpassing the U.S.*, Scientific American, (Jan. 30, 2023), <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/china-invests-546-billion-in-clean-energy-far-surpassing-the-u-s/>.

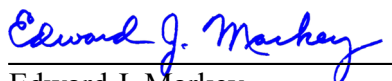
¹⁸ Rachel Frazin, *HHS fires entire staff of program that helps low-income people afford heat and air conditioning*, The Hill, (Apr. 2, 2025), <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/5228186-hhs-fires->

2026.¹⁹ In May, Secretary of Energy Chris Wright announced he would slash common-sense efficiency standards - including microwaves, refrigerators, dishwashers, and washing machines - which save the average household \$500 per year.²⁰

At the same time, Trump and Republicans are doing everything in their power to approve natural gas export projects, which have been repeatedly found to raise energy prices here at home as American fuel goes abroad. Unrestricted LNG exports – the type we are seeing now – are projected to increase energy costs for manufacturers by more than \$125 billion and energy costs for households by over \$122 per year on average.²¹

All of these policies combined are creating an affordability disaster. With ongoing misinformation and misdirection on energy costs in the press, it is important that we set the record straight on why families are finding it harder than ever to keep the lights on, stay cool in the summer, and stay warm in the winter. We urge you to stop making the energy cost crisis worse, end your attack on our energy grid, and instead support the solutions that could lower costs today – build cheap, deployable power, fund programs to help families afford energy bills, cut demand with energy efficiency, and end unfettered exports.

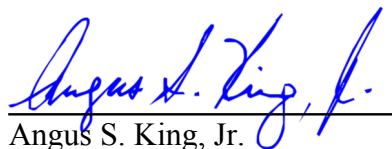
Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator

[entire-staff-of-program-that-helps-low-income-people-afford-heat-and-air-conditioning/](#)

¹⁹ Craig LeMoult, *Trump budget proposal would end energy assistance program for low-income Americans*, NPR, (May 15, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/15/nx-s1-5389917/trump-budget-proposal-would-end-energy-assistance-program-for-low-income-americans>

²⁰ Rachel Frazin, *Energy Department proposes to cut 47 rules in 'largest deregulatory effort in history*, The Hill, (May 12, 2025), <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/5296169-energy-department-proposes-to-cut-47-rules-in-largest-deregulatory-effort-in-history/>; <https://appliance-standards.org/frequently-asked-questions-about-appliance-standards>

²¹ *Energy, Economic, and Environmental Assessment of U.S. LNG Exports*, U.S. Dep't of Energy, Energy.gov, (Dec. 2024), https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/LNGUpdate_SummaryReport_Dec2024_230pm.pdf



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
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