



Hochul's Energy Policies Leave New Yorkers at Risk During Historic Snowstorm

*Thousands of New Yorkers Without Power as Hochul Decisions Fuel Sky-High Electric Bills
and Fragile Grid*

As the largest snowstorm in years blankets New York, residents are facing freezing temperatures—and a dangerously fragile electricity grid made worse by Governor Kathy Hochul's energy policies.

“Every New Yorker deserves safe, reliable, and affordable electricity,” said Blakeman. “Governor Hochul's policies have left the grid fragile and residents exposed during this historic snowstorm. Thousands of homes and businesses are already without heat, and that number will only grow if Albany does not act immediately.”

New York's power system has repeatedly failed under extreme weather. Last summer, roughly 110,000 Con Edison customers lost power during a record heatwave. Experts said aging infrastructure, including underground lines over a century old, left the system vulnerable. NYISO, which operates the state's electricity system, even declared an “Energy Warning” as reserves dropped to critically low levels. That same infrastructure is now under extreme pressure from winter heating demand.

At the same time, New Yorkers are paying some of the nation's highest electricity rates, with up to 30% of their bills going to taxes—everything from sales and delivery fees to property taxes on equipment. Since 2022, Hochul's Administration has approved at least 36 separate rate increases for electric and gas service, costing consumers more than \$2.9 billion. “Residents are being asked to pay for policies that make their energy both less reliable and far more expensive,” Blakeman said. “Sky-high bills during a historic storm are unacceptable.”

The problem stems from Hochul's energy policies. Hochul's administration has enforced the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), retiring more than 5,200 megawatts of fossil fuel electricity while adding only about 2,200 megawatts of renewable power. The result: a net loss of nearly 3,000 megawatts—enough to power over 2 million

homes—and a system increasingly vulnerable to outages. Transmission lines are maxed out in many areas, leaving the state relying on old infrastructure to meet rising demand, whether from air conditioners in summer or heaters in winter.

Hochul also signed the All-Electric Buildings Act into law, banning natural gas in nearly all new construction. “This law forces every new building to rely entirely on electricity for heating and cooking, increasing demand on an already fragile grid,” Blakeman said. “It’s another example of policy driving higher bills and putting families at risk during extreme weather.”

Blakeman is calling for immediate action:

- Prioritize grid reliability and emergency energy response.
- Pause mandates to electrify heating and transportation until the state secures sufficient electricity.
- Accelerate investment in safe, reliable energy generation to protect New Yorkers year-round.

“Every New Yorker should be able to stay warm in their home during a storm without worrying about sky-high bills or an unreliable grid,” Blakeman said. “Governor Hochul created this crisis—now she has a responsibility to fix it before the next storm hits.”

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