

Wilmington, Delaware
April 2, 2026

#XXXX

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Willauer**

WHEREAS, Delmarva Power and Light Company (Delmarva Power), a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation, provides electric and gas utility services to more than 300,000 customers in Delaware, including the City of Wilmington. Delmarva Power has proposed an electric base rate increase of 4.13%, or \$6.42 increase in monthly bills on the average customer's bill. According to Docket No. 25-1555, which details the proposed increase, the base rate changes would translate to roughly \$67.8 million in revenue for Delmarva Power, including a 10.5% return on equity for investors; and

WHEREAS, the proposed increase would result in an additional financial burden of as much as 23.7%, or \$15.63 per month for some customers. Rising energy costs also represent a significant hardship for small businesses, which already face challenges due to inflation and the ongoing economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this proposed base rate increase follows a pattern of previous rate hikes by Delmarva Power and is coupled with increases in other portions of customer bills, such as rising electric supply and capacity costs. In the past 5 years, the company has sought more than \$160 million in additional revenue through rate increases passed on to customers; and

WHEREAS, Wilmington residents and businesses are already facing rising costs for housing, healthcare, childcare, food, and other essential services, making it difficult to absorb further increases in utility costs, especially for the most vulnerable members of our community, such as low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Research has repeatedly shown that communities that carry the highest energy burdens are often the most financially disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, Delmarva Power and its parent company, Exelon Corporation, have reported significant profit margins over the past several years, raising concerns about the company's financial priorities and its reliance on ratepayers to sustain profitability. Exelon Corporation is anticipated to issue larger dividends to shareholders and is forecasting higher earnings per share over the next year. Conversely, residents are struggling to recover from record-breaking cold weather and snow, which disrupted economic activity across the region for several days and forced many to increase their energy usage. Making Delmarva Power's electric base rate increase permanent will exacerbate the budgetary stress on households, small business owners throughout our State; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Public Service Commission has been authorized by the Delaware General Assembly to transition from assessing utility rate increase requests based on the "business judgment," which restricts decision-making to instances of fraud or abuse, to the "prudence standard," which evaluates the reasonableness of rate increase justifications. The Council of the City of Wilmington respectfully urges the Delaware Public Service Commission to reject Docket No. 25-1555, Delmarva Power's proposed electric base rate increase application, to ensure that all future applications can be thoroughly evaluated according to the prudence standard, as the laws of our State intended; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, General Assembly, and Division of the Public Advocate of the State of Delaware, as well as the Council of New Castle County, have expressed their concerns with the consequences of approving the current rate increase for Delmarva Power.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative body stands with the Governor Matt Meyer, our counterparts in the Delaware General Assembly and New Castle County Council, and the

Division of the Public Advocate of the State of Delaware in expressing profound concerns about the impact of Docket No. 25-1555, Delmarva Power and Light Company's proposed electric base rate increase application, on ratepayers in our City and State. We respectfully urge the Delaware Public Service Commission to reject the proposal in its current form.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council urges Delmarva Power and Light to engage in meaningful discussions to explore alternative rate structures, energy efficiency programs, large load tariffs, and other measures to minimize the financial impact on Wilmington residents and businesses going forward.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____

City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution joins Governor Matt Meyer, our counterparts in the Delaware General Assembly and New Castle County Council, and the Division of the Public Advocate of the State of Delaware in expressing profound concerns about the impact of Docket No. 25-1555, Delmarva Power and Light Company's proposed electric base rate increase application, on ratepayers in our City and State. It respectfully urges the Delaware Public Service Commission to reject the proposal in its current form.