



Congresswoman Cori Bush (MO-01) and Congressman Jamaal Bowman (NY-16)

The utilities crisis in Texas in February was not an isolated incident. Our energy systems repeatedly exacerbate disasters we know are worsening and take lives in the process of prioritizing shareholder profits over people's needs. This problematic structure of investor-owned utilities is our dominant way of providing energy.

The problems of our current utility system are evident when people are choosing between turning on the heat in winter and buying cereal for their kids. The problems are evident when poor maintenance designed to save money makes already devastating wildfires far more deadly. The problems are evident when power goes out after a flood and someone cannot turn on vital medical equipment.

To save lives and to fight the climate crisis at the same time, utilities must be public goods for everyone. Every single person in this country should have electricity and temperature control they need for basic survival. The United States must re-imagine its power system to be just, equitable, anti-racist, and climate- and disaster-resilient through establishing a public power system. And we will.

Specifically, the Public Utilities Resolution calls to:

- **Fund a just energy transition for public and coop providers**, to replace existing infrastructure with renewable, affordable alternative sources of power.
- **Make federal energy renewable** by requiring federal power providers, including the Tennessee Valley Authority & Power Marketing Agencies, to become accountable public, renewable power utilities.
- **Transition from investor-owned power to renewable public power** by establishing aggressive targets for investor-owned utilities' decarbonization and end of shutoffs and bringing non-compliant utilities into an appropriate scale of public ownership.
- **Promote energy democracy and transparent processes** by establishing federal guidelines and incentives to enable communities and workers to hold all utilities accountable.
- **Ensure grid resilience and universal access to affordable power** by enacting a universal ban on electricity disconnections for nonpayment and enforcing progressive residential electricity rates.

Public power offers a golden opportunity to break corporate power and to redesign the grid so that everyone, particularly those most marginalized by the fossil fueled system, has a voice in transitioning energy that is truly in the public's best interest. By investing in and democratizing the public and cooperative power we already have in the United States, we can also pave the way for renewables grounded on the principles of energy justice.

Cosponsors: Rashida Tlaib, Marie Newman, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Mondaire Jones, Ayanna Pressley, Ilhan Omar, Raul Grijalva

The Public Utilities Resolution is supported by more than 40 organizations, [click here for a full list.](#)