

POLITICO PRO

NY & NJ Energy

BY [MARIE J. FRENCH](#) AND [RY RIVARD](#)

QUICK FIX

— **Swanky meeting for PJM** members next week.

— **An upstate Democrat wants** to delay a mandate for car makers to sell more electric passenger vehicles.

— **Key New Jersey lawmaker opines** on energy costs and fixes.

HAPPY FRIDAY MORNING: Let us know if you have tips, story ideas or life advice. We're always here at mfrench@politico.com and rrivard@politico.com. And if you like this letter, please tell a friend and/or loved one to [sign up](#).

DRIVING THE DAY

PJM'S PAINT & PINOT — PJM, the regional grid operator under fire for an auction that is driving higher electric bills across the region, is holding its [annual member meeting](#) next week at the Lansdowne Resort in Northern Virginia. As lawmakers and ratepayers brace for higher electric bills, PJM's members have the chance to enjoy [leisure activities](#) alongside their work, including golf, a pickleball tournament, bourbon tasting and two pinot-related events, "wine & zen" and "paint & pinot," according to PJM's official schedule of events.

The schedule is likely to fire up PJM's critics, who have already said the organization is out of touch with ratepayers. In New Jersey, bills

are expected to jump \$25 per month in large part because of a supply-demand crunch across the 13-state region of PJM's energy market.

Asked about the leisure activities, Maryland ratepayer watchdog David Lapp, who is [planning to attend the meeting](#), said he's there to "advocate for residential utility customers whose interests have been and continue to be undermined by a wide range of PJM policies."

"We will not be participating in the leisure events," Lapp said in a statement. "PJM has a serious and growing credibility problem due to the impacts of its policies on customers throughout the region. Certainly having high-end recreational events at its annual meeting doesn't help."

PJM spokesperson Jeff Shields said the meeting is sponsored by and paid for by its members and PJM facilitates these leisure events on behalf of members. There are also obviously many events for members to do business and discuss [organization-related](#) and [energy market-related](#) issues.

New Jersey Sen. John Burzichelli, a South Jersey Democrat who has been critical of the grid operator, said he doesn't begrudge PJM a getaway but the region is in a tough spot because of what he called its "mishandling" of the auction. "I can never afford to go because I'd have to take multiple taste testers with me," he said, joking about how unwelcome he would be there. — *Ry Rivard*

Introducing your new Policy Intelligence Assistant. Already included in your POLITICO Pro subscription, this suite of tools helps you navigate POLITICO's deep archive of news, analysis, and legislative text, track legislative activity and measure your impact. Create custom reports in seconds and make faster, smarter decisions—start using it now in your Pro platform. [Access Your Policy Intelligence Assistant Now.](#)

CLEAN CAR SKIDS — POLITICO's Marie J. French: An upstate Democrat wants to delay a mandate for car makers to sell more electric passenger vehicles.

Assemblymember John McDonald said he'd introduce a two-year delay of the regulations, citing consumer cost concerns and the potential loss of federal tax incentives.

“The reality is, if the federal government is truly going to eliminate the \$7,500 rebate, that makes it very difficult for the average person to really make that decision on electric vehicles,” McDonald said. “It doesn't mean we shouldn't continue to march toward that goal but instead of going 70 miles per hour we might need to go 45 for a bit, maybe take a couple years to still get to the same destination.”

Car dealers and automakers have been lobbying to delay the regulations, which follow [California's clean car rules](#). The state-level program already faces an existential threat in Washington.

Electric vehicles currently make up less than 10 percent of new cars sold in New York. The regulations are aimed at boosting sales by requiring manufacturers to sell ever-increasing percentages of zero-emission vehicles.

But auto dealers and manufacturers say the rules will hurt consumer choice, leading to a lack of availability of gas models in New York. Cost concerns are also a prime issue for Democratic politicians in power in Albany.

COUGHLIN ON ENERGY — POLITICO's Ry Rivard: Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin has been paying a lot of attention to energy issues ahead of summer rate increases that will cause skyrocketing

bills. “It’s a real fight because it’s a big deal for so many people,” he said in an interview this week with POLITICO.

To the Democratic speaker, the energy issues are the same kinds of affordability challenges he’s been trying to solve by helping boost funding for senior property tax cuts and passing ANCHOR rebates for homeowners and renters.

The rate hikes themselves are the result of a “pretty simple economic problem,” Coughlin said. There’s more demand for energy than supply. The solution isn’t so easy. He said the state can’t instantly create more supply.

His immediate focus is on various kinds of rate relief, including money that Gov. Phil Murphy has set aside for rate assistance and plans the Board of Public Utilities asked utilities to come up with to help defer some of the higher prices.

Over the long-term, he wants more energy production in New Jersey and the jobs that come with it, which may mean rethinking the state’s relationship with PJM. Other lawmakers have suggested leaving it. Coughlin said the state “can’t just leave PJM tomorrow,” but he said all options for dealing with the problem are on the table.

“We have to get away from depending on other states, ultimately, to provide us with the energy that we need to make New Jersey go,” Coughlin said.

One bill that so far hasn’t moved would undo the 1999 law that prevents state utilities from owning their own power plants, a policy known as deregulation. Its sponsor is the head of the committee that oversees utilities, Assemblymember Wayne DeAngelo.

“I’m told that the deregulation piece of this worked really effectively when we had more supply than we did demand,” Coughlin said.

AROUND NEW YORK

— A commercial dock on the Hudson River faces [criticism and complaints from neighbors](#).

AROUND NEW JERSEY

— Press of Atlantic City: “[New Jersey taking a new look at nuclear power as electric rates soar and voters grumble](#).”

Follow us on X



Marie J. French [@m_jfrench](#)

Ry Rivard [@ryrivard](#)

FOLLOW US



POLITICO PRO

POLITICO 1000 Wilson Blvd Arlington, VA, 22209, USA