



# CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

## Fighting for Illinois Consumers

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Jim Chilsen, 312-263-4282 (w)  
312-513-1784 (c), [jchilsen@citizensutilityboard.org](mailto:jchilsen@citizensutilityboard.org)

### **CUB REVIEW OF STATE DATA: COM ED, AMEREN RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS HAVE LOST MORE THAN \$2.3 BILLION TO ALTERNATIVE ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS SINCE 2015**

Commonwealth Edison and Ameren Illinois residential customers have lost a combined total of more than \$206 million over the last year and more than \$2.3 billion since 2015 to alternative electricity suppliers, according to a Citizens Utility Board (CUB) review of state data.

While ComEd and Ameren are in charge of delivering electricity over their power lines, Illinois law allows customers to choose another company—an alternative supplier—to provide the electricity itself. The Illinois Commerce Commission’s Office of Retail Market Development (ORMD), which focuses on electricity competition, recently released its [2026 annual report](#), covering June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026.

“CUB’s review of these statistics shows once again that going with an alternative electricity supplier is a gamble. Consumers should beware of bad deals,” CUB Executive Director Sarah Moskowitz said Friday. “As the losses mount, we urge the Illinois General Assembly to pass reforms to better protect Illinois consumers from rip-offs.”

CUB advised Illinois consumers to check the “Supply” section of their electric bills. If another company is listed there, see how its rate compares with the [utility’s price](#), called the “Price to Compare.” Currently, that price for ComEd is 10.399 cents per kilowatt-hour (shown as 0.10399 per kWh on bills). For Ameren, the price is currently 11.326 cents per kWh (shown as 0.11326 per kWh on bills)—and Ameren’s price is expected to go down on Oct. 1. Alternative suppliers are impacted by the same market conditions that have caused ComEd and Ameren supply prices to increase. It is likely the utility’s supply price is your best bet. ComEd and Ameren make their money on the “Delivery” section of bills; utilities are not allowed to profit from the “Supply” section.

While multiple factors, including higher energy demand sparked by data centers, have kept the utility supply rates elevated, CUB’s review shows that even in this high-priced environment, going with an alternative supplier is a gamble. A summary of findings:

- As of May 2026, nearly 1.14 million Illinois households were with an alternative supplier—about a 3.3 percent decrease from the year before. About 19 percent of ComEd residential customers were with an alternative supplier, compared to about 40 percent of Ameren customers.
- Municipal aggregation—when community leaders negotiate an alternative supply contract for their residents—is prevalent in Ameren territory, which largely explains why such a higher share of Ameren customers use alternative suppliers than ComEd customers. Of the 421,710 residential customers with an alternative electricity supplier in Ameren territory, 62 percent were municipal aggregation customers. Of ComEd’s 715,750 alternative supplier customers, 39 percent were on a municipal aggregation offer.
- On the whole, alternative supply deals did NOT save residential customers money. ComEd customers who were with an alternative supplier on average paid about 1.28 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) more than ComEd’s supply price. Ameren customers who were with an alternative supplier on average paid about 3.05 cents per kWh more than Ameren’s supply rate.
- The highest alternative supplier rates the ICC found were a 35.32 cents per kWh variable rate (a rate that can change monthly) in ComEd territory, and a 38 cents per kWh variable rate in Ameren territory. Both prices were about three to four times the default utility supply prices at the time.
- Reviewing year-by-year losses, CUB estimates that Illinois consumers have lost more than \$206 million

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309 W. Washington St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606  
**Phone** (312) 263-4282 | **Toll Free** 800-669-5556 | **Fax** (312) 263 4329

over the last year and more than \$2.3 billion since 2015. See the chart at the bottom of the release.

For years, CUB has warned [ComEd](#) and [Ameren](#) customers about bad deals peddled by alternative suppliers. Consumer advocates in 2019 helped pass the Home Energy Affordability and Transparency (HEAT) Act, historic Illinois protections against rip-offs. But advocates argue that the losses to alternative suppliers show that additional protections are needed, and that's why CUB has worked to pass the [“No More Utility Bill Rip-Offs Customer Protection Act” \(House Bill 4313\)](#).

HB 4313 would require that suppliers cannot at any time charge a supply rate more than 10 percent higher than the utility supply price. Also, it would require a customer's signature at the time of automatic contract renewal if the supplier is increasing the rate.

“The electric market in Illinois would benefit from stronger consumer protections,” said Rep. Kimberly Du Buclet, sponsor of the No More Utility Bill Rip-Offs Customer Protection Act. “Illinois families are already struggling with rising costs. It's time to put money back in people's pockets and protect consumers from third-party electric suppliers that too often use confusing practices and excessive rates to take advantage of customers.”

CUB had other tips. Customers who are on a [“municipal aggregation”](#) community power deal should confirm the price, how it compares with the utility's supply rate, and for how long the contract is. A CUB review of data on [Illinois' electric choice website \(PlugIn.Illinois.gov\)](#) found that most community-negotiated power offers in Ameren Illinois territory are currently money-losers, while most aggregation offers in ComEd territory are about the same as or better than the utility supply price. Remember, savings are not guaranteed with municipal aggregation.

Also, beware of high-priced “green plans.” Some customers may be willing to pay more for a [renewable energy-based plan](#). But such plans don't guarantee 1) that clean energy is being pumped into your home and 2) that it's supporting new clean energy in Illinois. You don't have to pay more for electricity to help the planet—practicing energy efficiency at your home can be even more impactful.

| Year-by-year results: CUB's review of ICC Office of Retail Market Development (ORMD) reports | Total Losses, ComEd customers                                                                                              | Total Losses, Ameren customers |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| June 2015-May 2016                                                                           | \$115.2 million (lost)                                                                                                     | \$10.6 million (lost)          |
| June 2016-May 2017                                                                           | \$152.1 million (lost)                                                                                                     | \$45.9 million (lost)          |
| June 2017-May 2018                                                                           | \$138.2 million (lost)                                                                                                     | \$89.3 million (lost)          |
| June 2018-May 2019                                                                           | \$124.2 million (lost)                                                                                                     | \$121.9 million (lost)         |
| June 2019-May 2020                                                                           | \$144.5 million (lost)                                                                                                     | \$107.4 million (lost)         |
| June 2020-May 2021                                                                           | \$240.2 million (lost)                                                                                                     | \$167.2 million (lost)         |
| June 2021-May 2022                                                                           | \$112.2 million (lost)                                                                                                     | \$24.0 million (lost)          |
| June 2022-May 2023                                                                           | \$82.7 million (lost)                                                                                                      | \$66.3 million (saved)         |
| June 2023-May 2024                                                                           | \$175.7 million (lost)                                                                                                     | \$122.5 million (lost)         |
| June 2024-May 2025                                                                           | \$171.6 million (lost)                                                                                                     | \$86.6 million (lost)          |
| June 2025-May 2026                                                                           | \$77.5 million (lost)                                                                                                      | \$128.6 million (lost)         |
| <b>Totals:</b>                                                                               | \$1.534 billion (losses for ComEd customers) + \$837.7 million (losses for Ameren customers) = <b>\$2.372 billion lost</b> |                                |

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*For more than 40 years the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) has been Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog group. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, CUB has saved consumers more than \$20 billion by helping to block rate hikes and secure refunds. For more information, call CUB's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-669-5556 or visit CUB's website, [www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org](http://www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org).*