

City Leaders Praise Upstate Fuel Victory

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A proposed amendment to the Federal Energy Bill now being developed in Congress which could have doubled or tripled some upstate electric bills has been removed from the pending legislation.

Mary Ann Richardson, legislative assistant in energy in the Washington, D.C., office of Rep. Stanley N. Lundine (D-Jamestown) said this morning that Senate-House conferees have agreed on language for an alternative proposal.

She said this involves a one-year national study by the federal Department of Energy, its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and state regulating agencies relative to the feasibility of equalizing costs of purchased power.

The approach effectively eliminates the so-called "Ottinger Amendment" from the energy bill being developed, the legislative assistant said.

The proposal was sponsored by Rep. Richard L. Ottinger (D-Westchester) and called for uniform power costs for customers of the Power Authority of the

State of New York. The authority said it could have meant redistribution of \$87 million in electric costs, lowering them in New York City and Westchester and increasing them upstate.

The proposed amendment was a major concern of Jamestown's Board of Public Utilities which purchases much of its power from the state's Niagara Project.

Dr. Marion Panzarella, board chairman said of the amendment deletion, "It's great. Evidently, Stan (Lundine) has done a magnificent job and the interest we've developed in upstate New York was effective." He said he will commend Lundine, the state's two senators — Jacob K. Javits and Daniel P. Moynihan — and the conferee from Rochester for their part in removing the amendment from the energy bill.

Mayor Steven B. Carlson termed himself "very, very pleased with the action" while James S. Pullan, the board's general manager, was a bit on the cautious side.