

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2026

The Honorable Randy McNally
Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Tennessee Senate
Tennessee State Capitol
425 Rep. John Lewis Way North
Nashville, TN 37243

The Honorable Cameron Sexton
Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives
Tennessee State Capitol
425 Rep. John Lewis Way North
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Lieutenant Governor McNally and Speaker Sexton,

I write to express my serious concern regarding the continued failures of Nashville Electric Service (NES) and to urge immediate intervention by the Tennessee General Assembly.

For several years, customers within NES's service territory—including many outside Nashville and beyond Davidson County—have experienced repeated and prolonged power outages following winter weather. The most recent storm again exposed a consistent and troubling pattern: infrastructure failures, multi-day service disruptions, poor communication with customers, and a lack of meaningful accountability. Local reporting documented that tens of thousands of NES customers remained without power for days while dangerously cold temperatures persisted.

Electric power is not a luxury. It is essential infrastructure that underpins public safety, economic stability, healthcare delivery, and basic human dignity. When large portions of Middle Tennessee are left without power for extended periods in freezing conditions, this is not merely an inconvenience. It is a systemic failure of governance.

These failures are not inevitable. Recent coverage contrasted NES's outage response with that of neighboring utilities operating under similar conditions, including Middle Tennessee Electric, which restored service more quickly and with fewer prolonged disruptions. NES and these utilities operate within the same region and under the same TVA system. The difference in outcomes reflects preparation, management, and accountability—not weather alone.

Equally troubling are reports regarding NES's internal priorities during the outage crisis. Local reporting indicated that, even as tens of thousands of customers remained without power, board and leadership had discussions focused on renewal of DEI consulting contracts and other non-emergency initiatives unrelated to storm response or grid restoration. While NES had been paying leftwing consultants under its existing contracts, it had slashed spending on tree branch trimming. These facts raise serious questions about whether NES leadership is focused on its core mission: delivering reliable electric service.

NES operates under a governance structure that is effectively insulated from democratic accountability. It is governed by an unelected Electric Power Board appointed by the Mayor of Nashville and removable

only through an extraordinary supermajority vote of the Metro Council. This structure *might* be defensible if NES served only the City of Nashville. It does not.

NES provides electric service to substantial populations outside Nashville and beyond Davidson County—residents and businesses who do not vote for the Mayor of Nashville, do not elect members of the Metro Council, never asked to be subject to the consequences of Nashville’s poor governance, and have no meaningful influence over the decisions that govern their essential infrastructure. This arrangement is fundamentally inequitable and undermines public trust.

While I trust that as leaders of our state you have treat concern for the integrity of power delivery across our state, there are also federal interests involved. NES operates within the Tennessee Valley Authority system, a federally created entity charged by Congress with ensuring reliable electric service across the region. Prolonged outages in the state’s capital region disrupt interstate commerce, federally funded healthcare systems, regulated communications networks, and emergency response efforts that often involve federal coordination. These realities warrant the attention of federal elected officials, as well.

Despite years of warnings and repeated outages, NES has demonstrated that it is either unable or unwilling to adequately prepare for foreseeable winter weather events. The problem is not so much technical as it is institutional. When accountability is absent, failure becomes predictable.

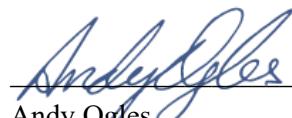
For these reasons, I call on the Tennessee General Assembly to exercise its constitutional authority and take immediate steps to:

1. Assume direct oversight of Nashville Electric Service;
2. Dismantle the current governance structure of NES, including the Electric Power Board;
3. Establish a new governance and management framework that is transparent, accountable to elected officials, and directly answerable to all NES customers, including those outside Davidson County; and
4. Conduct a comprehensive audit of NES operations, infrastructure investment, emergency preparedness, executive leadership, and organizational priorities.

The current model has produced repeated and foreseeable failures. Ice and snow storms are not unforeseeable in Tennessee. A power utility that cannot withstand winter weather is not fit for purpose. This is a matter of competence, accountability, and public trust, and Tennesseans deserve an electric utility that is resilient, professionally managed, and subject to real oversight—not one shielded by layers of bureaucratic insulation.

The General Assembly is uniquely positioned to restore accountability and protect the people of Tennessee from continued systemic failure. I urge you to act swiftly and decisively, and if there is any assistance I can provide, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress