



Pay more

A letter to the editor, Crain's New York Business

By James Parrott, July 11, 2010

Your editorial "Time to reform reformers" (June 21) loses sight of one of the biggest challenges New York faces: to "make work pay."

Real wages of average workers keep going down. When regulated utilities—hardly a "free market"—like Consolidated Edison directly, or indirectly through contractors, pay workers as little as \$8.50 an hour, they force workers to turn to publicly subsidized health care or food stamps to support their families. With their guaranteed profits, public utilities should follow what the rest of the market is paying contracted workers: a prevailing wage that lets them support their families without taxpayers' help.

—James Parrott

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