



# SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NAZARETH

SCN CENTER

April 6, 2015

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PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

Kentucky Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 615  
211 Sower Boulevard  
Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

Dear Members of the Kentucky Public Service Commission:

We, the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCN), SCN Associates and SCN Employees are extremely concerned about the recent announcement of the proposed raise in the monthly fee paid by customers of the utility companies in Kentucky. We number 415 individuals who use utility services across Kentucky and collaborate with educational, social, and health institutions that employ hundreds more individuals throughout Kentucky.

For over two hundred years, we have dedicated our lives to education, health care, and social work. We work in solidarity with oppressed peoples, especially those living in poverty and those marginalized in our society.

We bring our conviction in solidarity with these individuals and our Mission Statement that calls us to "care for the Earth" when we speak in opposition to the current proposal before the Public Service Commission regarding the flat fee rate increase.

In our work with those living in poverty, we are all too aware of how families struggle to make ends meet in one of the poorest states in the country (Kentucky is ranked 5th poorest in the Nation <http://www.census.gov/statab/ranks/rank34.html>). Fixed-incomes and low-incomes in families impede their ability to pay the average \$148/month in utility rates each month (ranked 29<sup>th</sup> highest in the Nation <http://pureenergies.com/us/blog/infographic-american-spending-on-utilities/>). Many families have worked to trim their energy use in order to save both money and resources. The result of the double-digit rate increase would mean that customers, committed to monetary savings and energy conservation, would be subsidizing users with much higher energy consumption.

In our call to "care for the Earth," we believe that the Kentucky Public Service Commission should encourage energy efficiency and promote the use of alternative energy sources. This diversification would affirm those who work to conserve energy and empower our state to turn from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. Additionally, this step would significantly improve the health of our citizens, the health of our common atmosphere around Earth, and the health of future generations of Kentuckians.

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As we commit ourselves to continued service with those living in poverty and to care for the Earth, we respectfully request that you reject the unfair plan of the utility companies to impose the increased fees on hundreds of their poorest customers.

Sincerely,

*Susan Gatz, SCN*

Susan Gatz, SCN  
President

*Sangeeta Ayithamattam, SCN*

Sangeeta Ayithamattam, SCN  
Vice President

*Brenda Gonzales, SCN*

Brenda Gonzales, SCN  
Vice President