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3/10/2017

Kentucky Public Service Commission
Public Information Officer
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, Ky. 40602

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2017

Public Service
Commission

RE: KU service fee hikes - Case #2016-00370

Dear Public Information Officer:

I am a currently a Kentucky Utilities customer from Marion County, KY.

I am very concerned about KU's unfair proposal to double their basic service charge. Our community deserves affordable, clean energy, and we deserve to have control over our energy bills. This increase takes us in the wrong direction.

KU wants to charge us more - and they want to do it by increasing the flat fee we all have to pay no matter how much energy we use, while slightly lowering the rate they charge for energy use. That's not right. It hurts people with low and moderate incomes. And it makes it harder for my family to manage our bills by being careful about how much energy we use. And at this time gas is at an ALL-TIME low (due to the enormous amount of fracking in our country). The utility companies are showing more of a profit over the past few years than ever before.

KU has sent customers misleading information about the new rate structure, indicating that it will save consumers money. But their claims only apply to very high-volume users, and only in months with very high energy use. For my family and many others, their plan will lead to an average increase in my monthly energy bill. I am concerned about the nature of the utilities' public information. And I believe it makes no sense for a rate structure to reward customers who use the most energy. I already question the high bill I receive each month (I am a single person with a meager salary and try to conserve in any way possible, EX: lights off as much as possible, turn thermostat to 70 degrees or off, wash full loads, etc. My bill averages at least \$150 per month—and I don't know why). Do such drastic increases appear justified (doubling of base rates)?

The proposed charges will discourage people like me from taking steps to make our homes and businesses more energy efficient or use renewable energy. These charges will move Kentucky in the wrong direction and make things worse for our energy bills, health, local jobs and climate.

The Kentucky Public Service Commission must ensure that KU's rate structure is fair, necessary, and does not hurt low- and moderate-income residents. Please reject these proposals. Insist that these utilities come up with a fair plan that allows us all to breathe easier.

Cordially,

Barbara L. Hagan