Commonwealth of Kentucky

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TIM COUCH

P.O. Box 710 Hyden, Kentucky 41749 502) 564-8100, Ext. 632 Legislative Message Line 800-372-7181

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90th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL Room 429F, Capitol Annex Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 tim.couch@lrc.ky.gov



JUL **102017** PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Members of the Commission,

In June, Kentucky Power filed yet another rate case increase with the Kentucky Public Service Commission that will affect 20 counties in Eastern Kentucky. In recent years, our communities have been devastated by the downturn in the coal industry and the resulting loss of jobs – all of which continue to wreak havoc on our economy and families.

In 2017, as a result of pro-jobs and pro-investment policies passed in Frankfort, many Eastern Kentucky towns are experiencing an uptick of sorts. We have had major economic development announcements, which will result in thousands of new jobs. Several coal mines have fired back up, and some miners are finally getting back to work.

The burden placed on our elderly, low-income, and fixed-income residents from the last rate hike alone has inflicted enough damage, and a further increase would be one more thing to spike the further migration of our people away from Eastern Kentucky.

Rate payers in Eastern Kentucky are managing their budgets on a monthly basis, in historically tough times. Hard working citizens do the same, and a rate hike on these people who have suffered enough simply is unacceptable.

We have one suggestion for Kentucky Power, and it's to do just like their rate payers: live within your means, and manage what you have without placing what would be an absolutely back-breaking hike on our hard working residents. Needless to say, now is not the time for another setback.

As representatives in Frankfort for residents of Eastern Kentucky, we respectfully ask that you continue to join us in our aggressive, innovative approach to economic development and revitalization in Eastern Kentucky, and not in what would be a regressive move.

Sincerely,

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Tim Couch State Representative, District 90

CC/Governor Matt Bevin 700 Capital Avenue, Suite 100 Frankfort, KY 40601

Brandor & Smith

Brandon Smith State Senate, District 30