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June 21, 2017

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Dear Commission Members,

Public Service  
Commission

The recent reports that Kentucky Power has requested a **rate hike of nearly 17%** for their residential customers is both disturbing and disgusting! The "**financial rape**" that KY Power has spent years committing against Eastern Kentucky has to be stopped!

The decline of the coal industry has left many residents seeking employment elsewhere and relocating out of the area. The financial strain has been crippling to those of us left to revive and hold this region together. In the process, the constantly increasing rate hikes, added riders and fees, and soaring electricity bills from KY Power are nothing short of a **death sentence** to those of us left here attempting to restore our economy.

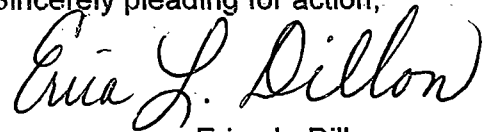
When the **Chairman of the Board/CEO** of American Electric Power brought home a yearly compensation of over **\$11 million** in 2016, but families in our area were left with the decision of whether to feed their children or have heat in the winter, there's a problem. When the **Executive Vice President/CFO** and the **Vice Chairman** of AEP both brought home total yearly compensations of over **\$3 million** in 2016, but thousands of families spent cold mornings lining up at food banks to feed their families or at assistance programs to keep the lights and heat turned on, and consequently had to miss work to do so, there's a problem! Why do other companies/businesses have to eat the costs of their failed business practices, however AEP is continually granted the ability to pass those costs along to their customers?

The residents of Eastern KY didn't ask for this economic crisis. WE didn't cause this decline in our region. We have simply gone to work, day in and day out, trying to provide for our families, while our economy crumbles around us and executives get richer and richer. It's both saddening and disgusting in our little towns to see homeless people setting

up camp under bridges, homeless shelters being filled to capacity, drug and theft crimes at an all-time high, and people doing things they never would have done, just to survive! Through the attacks of KY Power on our people, our little, friendly, simple and old-fashioned community has been transformed into more of an inner-city alley. We need HELP, and KY Power is only hurting!

The people of Eastern KY are good, selfless, determined, hard-working people. There comes a breaking point for everyone, though. Raising hikes continually at a time when families are struggling just to SURVIVE is financial rape in the truest sense. The people of our region simply CANNOT sustain another hit to their financial well-being. A wise person once said that "the same boiling water that softens the potato, hardens the egg." But I ask you, if you take away both the water and the heat, what happens? Neither can change! How can you expect us to change our circumstances, our economy, our region, if you keep taking everything we have from us? Residents of Eastern KY keep crawling from the hole we have been dropped into, only to be knocked back down by utility companies with money-hungry monopolies in our area. **The people of Eastern KY have received a "death sentence." We sit on death row, awaiting some sort of relief, some sort of pardon. We beg of you for help because only you can save us!**

Sincerely pleading for action,



Erica L. Dillon  
197 Ramey Fork  
Raccoon, KY 41557  
[REDACTED]