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Office of Pike County Judge/Executive

RAY S. JONES, II

PIKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
146 MAIN STREET
PIKEVILLE, KENTUCKY 41501
OFFICE: (606) 432-6247
FAX: (606) 432-6242

October 26, 2020

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

RE: Proposed Rate Change of Peoples Gas KY LLC

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Notice of Proposed Rate Change of Peoples Gas KY LLC.

As Pike County Judge/Executive, the responsibility to ensure that our citizens are treated fairly is my highest priority. I assure you, the citizens of Pike County simply cannot bear a rate change at this time.

Pike County is currently designated as a "Distressed" county by the Appalachian Regional Commission. Since 2011, the entire region has lost over 33,500 high paying coal industry jobs and eastern Kentucky has lost 13,000. These jobs have not been replaced with equal paying jobs. People have either moved out of Pike County to find work or remained to work for far less than what they were accustomed to. A rate change would create an extreme hardship to our most vulnerable population. Our elderly and handicapped that are on fixed incomes should not be forced to make the decision as to whether to pay their utility bills, or purchase groceries or medicine.

Finally, it is inconceivable to think that Peoples Gas KY LLC would propose a rate change during a pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the biggest blow to the U.S. economy since the Great Depression with unemployment rates spiking in Pike County to 16.6% in April. Most of the workers that lost their jobs over the past several months still remain unemployed.

Due to the state of our economy, I respectfully urge you to reconsider your rate change at this time. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ray S. Jones, II
Pike county Judge/Executive