

Commonwealth Of Kentucky
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Representative Ashley
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95th District



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Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602

Dear Commissioners:

I write to you today to strongly oppose the Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities' plan to retire four coal-fired electric generating units. I have serious concerns that, if approved by the Public Service Commission-this much too hasty transition away from coal will cost power customers thousands of dollars through immediate and unmanageable rate hikes, put good paying jobs at risk, and eliminate access to what has proven to be one of the most reliable energy sources available.

History has shown that after the decommissioning of coal-fired power plants, electric power customers witness steep rate hikes. After Kentucky Power's Big Sandy coal-fired plant in Lawrence County was converted 2016, impacted customers were burdened with the **highest electrical rates** in Kentucky, facing increases of nearly 80% in some instances. It would be a backbreaking burden to force our already suffering Kentucky families to pay higher utility prices during a time of record high energy costs.

I am also concerned that closing coal-fired plants faster than alternative sources of wind, solar, and battery storage are being built could predictably lead to devastating consequences. In the recently released 2022 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation warned that continued retirement of coal and natural gas baseload generation endangers the reliability of the grid. I implore members of this commission, whose primary charge is the protection of consumers from such dangers, to take the steps needed to preserve the reliability and affordability of our state's electric grid by halting the closure of our remaining electric generation plants.

Our nation, and especially Kentucky, is simply not prepared to abandon our most reliable energy source. I hope you will agree and stand up for the thousands of Kentuckians who may be negatively impacted.

Sincerely,

Ashley Tackett Laferty
State Representative
95th District

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