



Community Action Kentucky
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December 13, 2024

RECEIVED

Kentucky Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort KY 40601

DEC 16 2024

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Delta Natural Rate Increase, Case Number 2024-00346

Dear Kentucky Public Service Commission,

I am writing on behalf of Community Action Kentucky (CAK), an organization committed to improving the lives of Kentucky residents by addressing the challenges of poverty. We wish to express our opposition to the proposed Delta Natural Rate increase, as outlined in the public notice 2024-00346.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2019, 16.3% of Kentucky residents live in poverty, a rate that is significantly higher than the national average of 10.5%. For these individuals and families, any increase in natural gas rates could have a significant impact on their already strained budgets.

Energy affordability is a critical issue in Kentucky. A study by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy found that low-income households in Kentucky spend an average of 9.8% of their income on energy bills, nearly three times more than higher-income households. The proposed rate increase would exacerbate this issue, placing an even greater burden on our most vulnerable citizens.

We urge the Public Service Commission to consider the broader economic impact this increase will have on these vulnerable households and to explore alternatives to mitigate the burden on low-income consumers. Specifically, we recommend expanding or enhancing existing low-income energy assistance programs, such as Home Energy Assistance Program (HEA), and ensuring that any rate increases are accompanied by protective measures that shield those most at risk of energy poverty.

In conclusion, we respectfully ask that the Public Service Commission reject the proposed rate increase or, at the very least, incorporate stronger protections for low-income consumers. The economic realities faced by Kentucky's most vulnerable residents must be considered in any decision that impacts utility rates.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We trust that you will take into account the disproportionate hardship this rate increase would place on low-income Kentuckians before making a final determination.

Sincerely,

Catrena Bowman (Dec 16, 2024 14:31 EST)

Catrena Bowman
Board Chair

14-10-51 2024-12-16 Eastern

<h1>FAX</h1>	To:	15025643460
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	From:	Rick Baker
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	Date:	12-16-2024 2:48 PM
	Subject:	Case 2024-00346
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 Executive Director
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