

JAN 20 2026

**PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION**

Commonwealth of Kentucky

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
97TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
(502) 564-8100, EXT. 621
MESSAGE LINE: (800) 372-7181**



**STATE CAPITOL ANNEX
702 CAPITAL AVENUE
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
E-MAIL: BOBBY.MCCOOL@KYLEGSLATURE.GOV**

BOBBY MCCOOL

January 13, 2026

Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Members of the Commission:

I write in strong and absolute opposition to American Electric Power's (AEP) proposed 15 percent electricity rate increase. This proposal is unacceptable, unjustified, and unfavorable for the people of eastern Kentucky.

Eastern Kentucky is not a wealthy region. Many residents are elderly, disabled, retired, or living on fixed incomes. Others are working families who are already stretched to the breaking point by inflation, rising food costs, medical expenses, and housing instability. Asking these households to absorb yet another increase—particularly for a basic necessity like electricity—is reckless and cruel.

A 15 percent rate increase is not minor. It is devastating. It will force families to make impossible choices between heat, medicine, groceries, and rent. It will push vulnerable residents closer to utility shutoffs, worsen public health outcomes, and deepen poverty in a region that has already sacrificed enough.

Electric service is essential infrastructure, not a luxury product. Ratepayers should not be punished for corporate decisions, investment strategies, or profit expectations. If AEP is experiencing financial pressure, that burden should be addressed internally—not shifted onto customers who have no alternative provider and no ability to absorb higher bills. The Kentucky Public Service Commission exists to protect the public interest, not to rubber-stamp rate hikes that disproportionately harm low-income and rural communities. Approving this increase would represent a failure of that responsibility.

I urge the commission to reject this proposal in its entirety. Eastern Kentucky residents cannot afford this increase, should not be asked to bear it, and deserve meaningful protection from excessive utility rates. The people of this region are watching closely and expect the commission to stand with consumers—not corporate profit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby W. McCool".

Bobby McCool
State Representative, 97th District

BM/ld