September 27, 2017

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire
Chief Clerk and Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

Ref: Request of the SC ORS for Rate Relief to SCE&G Rates Pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. §58-27-920.

Dear Ms. Boyd:

We write in support of the ORS petition requesting that SCE&G be required to immediately suspend all revised rates collections from customers. We further support their request that, depending on legislative and court actions, SCE&G be required to permanently cease collecting these rates and make restitution to customers for funds already paid under the revised rates proceedings.

Residential and business consumers should not be compelled to make payments to SCE&G that are based upon a law that is of very questionable constitutionality. The “Opinion on constitutionality of the Base Load Review Act of 2007” released on September 26 by the South Carolina Attorney General, documents that the statute fails to meet the constitutional requirement that it balance the interests of investors and ratepayers. The rates imposed on the basis of this very questionable law have already done significant harm to South Carolina’s ratepayers. There are also reports that the very high rates reflecting increases granted under the BLRA have impaired economic development in affected portions of the state.

It is the business of state regulation of utilities to protect the interest of consumers and the public. The public would be best served by your promptly granting the relief requested in the petition of the ORS.

Sincerely yours,

Julie Hussey, Co-President, LWVSC

Cc: K. Chad Burgess, Director & Deputy General Counsel, SCE&G
    C. Dukes Scott, Executive Director, SC ORS

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