283304

Scott Butler

Feb 21, 2019

Subject: Petition Against the Duke Energy Rate Increase

Dear Commissioners:

As a Duke Energy electric customer, I encourage you to closely examine the Duke Energy electric rate proposal (2018-319-e) when it comes before you, Specifically, I am concerned that:

Duke Energy's proposal to increase the basic facilities charge, a fixed cost from $8.29 to over $28. This would make this mandatory fee one of the highest in the country and much higher than the other investor-owned utility in South Carolina which recently lowered its fixed cost.

The increase in this mandatory fee takes away customer control over my energy bill robs me of the full benefit of energy conservation efforts. It is important that you protect older consumers who may live on a fixed income.

While I understand the need for utilities to occasionally seek reasonable increases on certain fees, I think it's unreasonable to seek (or allow) an increase such as this that more than triples the existing charge.

I am one of those "older consumers" who lives on a fixed income. Unfortunately, I do not have the capability to proportionately increase my income to meet such an increase as Duke Energy is seeking.

Sincerely,
Scott Butler

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