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Gethsemane Baptist Temple

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Sam Duncan, *Pastor*

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Anderson, SC 29624

Public Service Commission
PO Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Sirs:

I am writing regarding the proposed rate increase by Duke Energy. Please accept my apology for not coming personally to the hearings but our church holds services on Wednesday nights and I teach Bible College on Thursdays. This eliminated the possibility of my attendance to any of the upstate hearings.

As pastor of a church in the south Anderson area, I deal daily with the underprivileged and financially strapped families in our area. We have regular calls from the community needing help with power bills, etc. As everyone already knows, the economy has left many families with more problems than ever. I really believe that this is not the time for any rate increases. This would put an undue hardship on untold numbers of our citizens. I believe in the free market system but if anyone should shoulder any burden right now, it should be the large corporations and not the individual. Families are maxed out with financial struggles. The climate in our country already holds corporate greed in great disgust. Please don't allow this injustice at this time. Once the economy in our country recovers-maybe! Certainly, this is not the time for added burdens on the working public. You have the authority to prevent this. Please do so! Duke Energy could easily shoulder this proposed cost and still show a profit.

I am speaking for the 2000-plus members of our church as well as a great number of struggling families. Please take all the above facts into your decision making process. Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sam Duncan