

FILE

Hunter, Donielle

**From:** ContactThePUCO  
**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2012 4:15 PM  
**To:** Docketing  
**Subject:** Docketing

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Investigation and Audit Division

Memorandum

Date: 12/17/2012

Re: Rosemary Billman

, 00000

Docketing Case No.:12-2637-GA-EXM

Notes:

Concerning case 12-2637. Deregulation of the prices of gas and electricity will not result in lowering bills for consumers. The data from Texas and Georgia, the only 2 states that have tried complete deregulation, proves that consumers end up paying more, not less. You have to ask why Columbia Gas is pushing so hard for deregulation, and the answer is they obviously feel they can make more money if deregulation occurs. Why else did their lawyers work to get the data from Georgia thrown out. As a consumer, I do not feel that even limited competition for utility contracts has actually worked to the interest of the consumers. When I first tried it by buying gas from an independent supplier, I ended up paying more than I would have if I had stayed with the utility; when I discovered that, I switched back. Since gas and electricity are necessities, consumers are forced to pay whatever the companies decide to charge. They are businesses and they, as all businesses, look to increase their profits as much as possible. They have no incentive to keep prices to a minimum, and people don't have the choice not to buy at all. The people who say an open market would be more beneficial are most likely the same people who are connected to these businesses and who stand to gain profit from deregulation. The consumers will not gain. We will be forced to pay even more for the same services. I beg you not to deregulate our utilities!!!!

Please docket the attached in the case number above.

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Technician SW Date Processed DEC 18 2012

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