90: Public UTILITIES COMMISTARIN OF OHIOS

RE: CASE # 17 -

IT HAS RECENTLY BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION THAT DUKE ENERGY WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY RAISING THE FIXED "CUSTOMER CHARGE" ON MY ELECTRIC BILL. WE TRY TO BE AS EFFICIENT AS WE CAN, BUT THIS WILL BE CHARGED NO MATTER HOW MUCH ENERGY I USE, OR HOW MUCH I "SAVE." I FIND THIS ALMOST AS RIDICULOUS AS THE CABLE COMPANY, WHO INCREASES PRICES FOR NO REASON, AND WITHOUT TELLING YOU. JUST SNEAK THEM IN! WHEN CONFRONTED ABOUT IT, THEY REDUCED MY BILL SOME ... NOT NEAR THE ORIGINAL PRICE THOUGH. MY FAMILY, LIKE MOST, LIVE PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK. IT IS HARD ENOUGH TO SAVE ANY MONEY AS IT IS! WITH LARGER BILLS, FOR NO REASON; AND SOMETHING I CANNOT CONTROL, IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO MAKE ENDS MEET. WE NEED A NEW REFRIGGERATOR, AS OURS 15 OVER 20 YEARS OLD. HOW CAN I SAVE FOR THAT? ISN'T IT IN EVERYONE'S BEST INTEREST TO USE NEWER, ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES, OR MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY ARE ADDING THE FEE ... DUKE ISN'T SELLING ENOUGH ENERGY. IRONIC, I WOULD SAY. PLEASE HELP PUT A STOP TO THIS, AS IT IS ONLY HURTING THE AVERAGE CITIZEN. THE ONLY REASON IS TO PAD THE POCKETS OF THEIR BOARD MEMBERS AND SHAREHOLDERS.

SINCERELY,