From: <u>noreply@salesforce.com</u> on behalf of <u>Michael Yonkura</u>

To: <u>Puco Docketing</u>

Subject: PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO - CASE #: 00182532 [ref:_00Dt0GzXt._500t08tEDp:ref]

Date: Monday, January 08, 2018 2:16:55 PM



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO Consumer Service Division Memorandum

CASE ID: 00182532

COMPANY:

CUSTOMER: Anonymous Anonymous

ADDRESS:

Cleveland, Ohio 44115 SERVICE ADDRESS:, AIQ: Duke Energy Ohio

NIQ:

DOCKETING CASE #: 17-0032-EL-AIR

SUBJECT: Duke Energy raised customer fees

My mother is a senior who lives on a fixed income. I recently read about the Duke consumer fee that is planned to increase. This hike would hurt seniors like my mother and those who already have difficulty paying their current utility bills. What I read really concerns me. I already know people who decide every month whether they will pay for medications and proper food or for their utilities. Most of the time, utility bills win. That's unfortunate because these are most of the time individuals who are supposed to take high priced medications and need to be on specific diets in order to remain as healthy as possible. I see this proposal resulting in more hospitalizations, possible deaths and people already trying to conserve not using their utilities even when they need to. People who are already attempting to conserve energy would essentially be subsidizing those who do not regulate their energy use. I am a firm believer that an individual should pay for what he/she uses, not more and not less. I also read that many utility commissions throughout the country have rejected proposals for customer fee hikes due to this particular concern. I urge you to consider the consumer and not the company. Raising fees is not about assisting those who need assistance; it's about additional financial strain for those choosing one necessity over another being placed in a position that is even more dire financially as well as physically and mentally detrimental. This is not acceptable.

Please docket customer comments in the case number above.

Sincerely,

Michael Yonkura

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Service Monitoring and Enforcement Department Customer Service Assistant (800) 686-PUCO (7826) www.PUCO.ohio.gov

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Case No(s). 17-0032-EL-AIR

Summary: Public Comment (1) electronically filed by Ms. Danelle M Miller on behalf of PUCO and Docketing Staff