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17-032-EL-AIR

To: Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

From: Sue Mangan

Date: 11-1-17

Customer charges imposed on utility users at a fixed rate regardless of how much energy a customer uses, is like a regressive tax that is an undue burden on low income people, the very people that use the least energy. There is no beneficial return to the user on this charge but a windfall to the utility companies. This is unconscionable especially when the charge, as currently proposed, increases.

by 280%. Utility companies have made poor long term business decisions by being overly reliant on the dying coal industry. Instead of taking responsibility for their failing policy they are trying to improve their profit margins on the backs of those who have the least ability to fight for their consumer protections. The responsible decision for you, who has been entrusted to make the best decisions on behalf of Ohio, is to deny Duke Energy's proposed increase. Riced rates are not the way for utility companies to improve their profit margins. Sue Mancin