From: PUCO Consumer Call Center

To: <u>Puco Docketing</u>

Subject: PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO - CASE #: 00779549 [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_5008y5NIyh:ref ]

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 10:54:24 AM



## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO Consumer Service Division Memorandum

**CASE ID: 00779549** 

**CUSTOMER:** Teresa Taylor

ADDRESS: 13 Rockway Avenue, Springfield, Ohio 45506

SERVICE ADDRESS: 13 Rockway Avenue, Springfield, Ohio 45506

AIQ: Columbia Gas of Ohio

NIQ: 9374089623

\*\*\*To ensure your response attaches to the appropriate case, please reply to this email without changing the subject line. Thank you!\*\*\*

**DOCKETING CASE #: 21-0637-GA-AIR** 

**SUBJECT:** Columbia Gas of Ohio - Rates & Tariffs

09/20/2022 Dear Governor Dewine: I just read about Columbia Gas wanting to charge higher prices on monthly basis and raising them again in 5 years, which, the reasons for doing so was for additional costs they incurred for workout center for employees, covid, and added building expenses of which they could not present documentation for. I just want to say- I have been on a budget for 20 yrs which ran around \$70/mo thru winter. My newest bill for budget plan for September is \$115 without any use of heat! On a budget! They plan to raise it again in 5 yrs? I am going on 68 years old and I can't tell you how defeated I feel after years of trying to pay off bills and try to save so I can retire. I know there is inflation and all, but when you buy chicken at the store that is marked up from \$2/lb to almost \$8/lb, coffee went from \$6 to \$11.00, and potatoes went from \$3/lb to \$5.99/lb, and now your utility bills are skyrocketing, it becomes apparent that no one is safe from having their monthly budgets absolutely wiped out. Columbia Gas has made enough money to not be gouging their customers in a time when consumers cannot afford much more, and the quality of life is declining. I am asking you to step in and help your people

by fighting this. To say they will raise it more is just a nightmare! Thank you for your time Governor. Sincerely, Teresa Taylor

Consumers should not have to be subjected to greed by gas company when they can hardly afford to buy groceries due to incessant inflation and price gouging by the stores. Columbia Gas now wanting to charge set higher prices monthly and then more in 5 years, so they can pay for a workout center and bring in higher profits is the epitome of GREED. How are senior citizens supposed to deal with this or young people making \$15/hr when their gas, electric and groceries take up the rest of their pay after paying rent or house payments? My monthly BUDGET for gas has been \$70/mo- and my budget billing for September is now \$115.00! On a budget! \$80 that could help buy groceries, is now going to Columbia Gas, whether I use it or not and expected to go up more in 5 years. I know there is inflation, but it seems like the utility companies are expecting already burdoned consumers to help them make hefty profits! I expected somewhat higher prices but I will be writing to representatives in Ohio as this is absolutely ridiculous!???????

Please docket the associated customer comment and/or attached in the case number referenced above under "Public Comments". This information was received by the Consumer Services Division through alternate channels and is being forwarded to be filed formally. This information is not the opinion of Staff and should not be viewed as such.

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Case No(s). 21-0637-GA-AIR, 21-0638-GA-ALT, 21-0639-GA-UNC, 21-0640-GA-AAM

Summary: Public Comment of Teresa Taylor, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing