

**Public****Total Comments: 12****In Favor: 0****Opposed: 12****Undecided: 0**

Filing Support	Commenter	Source	Comments
No			
	Rodney Mark Haywood	E-mail	The WUTC commissioners have mandated that CNGC can charge their customers an additional amount to cover CNGC's arrearages due to customers that cannot pay their bills. According to both the WUTC and CNGC, this is neither a tax nor a donation. CNGC has about 315,000 customers and they charge each customer an average of \$1.00 each month. You can't expect me to believe that they're that many people that cannot pay their gas bills each month! The customers of CNGC have not voted for this added fee. CNGC is STEALING from their customers! This is socialism and unconstitutional! I demand that this practice be stopped and I want ALL the money that they have charged me refunded!
	Emily Giese	Web	CommentsThese rate hikes are ridiculous!! These rate hikes are ridiculous!!
	Robert Swope	Web	Cascade Natural Gas seems to have a constant campaign of rate hikes. On March 1, 2025, an overall 13.18% increase is being requested. Social Security recipients received a 2.5% increase. I strongly suggest that Cascade Natural Gas not be given a rate increase of any kind. They need to live within their means.
	Huy	Web	Whatcom county residents cannot afford a rate increase.
	james brady	Web	The amount of rate increase requested is far out of line with the amount of the cost of

			<p>living. The average homeowner cannot afford to pay such an increase. thank you for any assistance you can provide the average rate payer.</p>
	Melinda A Madrid	Web	That is way to high of an increase and there are already so many fees it is ridiculous.
	Jerry E Kurtz	Web	Again, they come with large increases. People can't afford it. maybe they need to tighten their belts like the rest of us. Seems that this is an every year thing now.
	Cassie Hackney	Web	Everything has gotten so expensive it's almost impossible to afford everything. Adding 14% increase is ridiculous and unsustainable to us consumers.
	Joel Stamm	E-mail	<p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>Please do not allow CNGC to raise its prices. Between grocery store prices, property tax increases, and every other price you can think of being dramatically higher than it was simply five years ago, families in Washington State simply cannot afford these kinds of increases.</p> <p>Thanks, Joel Stamm</p>
	Robin Keller	E-mail	<p>I am submitting a public comment regarding Docket UG-240008, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation.</p> <p>I am a customer of Cascade Natural Gas. I received a letter issues in October 2024 detailing a proposed rate increase starting in 2025.</p> <p>I find the proposed rate increase to be disproportionately burdensome on residential customers. The proposed rate increase for Residential customers is 14.61% effective March 1, 2025, and 2% effective March 1, 2026. Except for Transportation customers, this is by far the largest proportional increase of all customers. Residential customers outpace even industrial and commercial customers in cash amounts of rate per therm unit.</p> <p>I am a residential customer. I do not use gas for cooking, only for heating water, drying clothes, and heating the inside of the house. I keep my home at 69F in the winter and no higher. I blocked off several rooms in the house and insulate windows to conserve heat. I wear extra clothes.</p>

Even with these measures, my monthly therm usage in winter can get near 100 therms in the coldest months. Last month my bill was \$145. The letter from Cascade reports that a “typical residential customer” is using “54 therms a month” and will see an overall average 14.61% increase, or \$11.10 per month.

Like many Washingtonians, the housing market has priced me out of home ownership. I rent. When I can no longer afford to rent, I will leave Washington. It seems inevitable.

In Kitsap County, where I live, the average monthly rent per unit in fall of 2023 was \$1,587. This was according to a UW State Apartment Market Report study, cited in the Kitsap County Housing Solutions Center Quick Facts report of 2023(1).

According to this report, the average income for at risk households was \$1,037, far below the \$1,587 needed for rent. At such numbers, even the \$11.10 per month proposed rent increase that CNG reports could be very harmful for persons at risk of homelessness. These numbers are a year old, but they are the most current for Kitsap County. Since then, with inflation and other rising costs of living, the true difference is expected to be much worse.

Income eligible assistance programs are overwhelmed, or difficult to access, something that CNG admits on their own website (2) when they admit that “determining eligibility is a multi-step process that may be complex, and for this reason, Cascade encourages you to call a Community Action agency to walk you through the process or to answer your questions.” This is after they suggest, a few paragraphs earlier, that “[a]pplying for CARES is easy.” The logo for their program CARES has an artistic rendering of a person dancing in the abbreviation of the program’s name, apparently meant to convey good intentions and a humane attitude.

While there are multiple languages that the application is offered in, the links are all in English.

The Community Action agency listed for Kitsap (3) warns potential customers (in English) that there are a limited number of appointments available to prospective applicants.

These are just a few of the ways it is difficult to apply for aid, assuming one even is eligible, and should one not be eligible for whatever reason, this rate increase might be

			<p>excessively painful for residents already facing a historic cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Please reduce the burden on residential customers.</p> <p>Thank you: R. Keller</p> <p>(1) <a href="https://www.kitsap.gov/hs/HOUSINGBLOCK/2023%20HSC%20Quick%20Facts%20-%20Annual.pdf">https://www.kitsap.gov/hs/HOUSINGBLOCK/2023%20HSC%20Quick%20Facts%20-%20Annual.pdf</a> (2) <a href="https://www.cngc.com/customer-service/low-income_assistance_programs/">https://www.cngc.com/customer-service/low-income_assistance_programs/</a> (3) <a href="https://www.kcr.org/energy">https://www.kcr.org/energy</a></p>
	Dean Nester	Web	<p>This increase request by CNG is wildly unreasonable! The price per therm of natural gas I get from CNG has already gone up 65% since 2021. Now they want to increase it by another 15% and claiming in part that it is because of COVID which is to say it as politely as I can - B.S.! By reading their detailed statement, they are also asking to increase their monthly basic service charge by 115% (from \$5.00/mo to \$11.50/mo). This request needs to be rejected soundly. Respectfully submitted, Dean Nester</p>
	Diana	Web	<p>I am against the 24.93 rate increase. My social security income cannot keep up with these rate increases.</p>