

August 30, 2016

WUTC  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98504

**RECEIVED**  
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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

Case Number: 160228

I am writing in regards to the proposed Avista Rate increase. I have written in before, as Avista asks for these raises frequently. It seems that every 6 months I see another notice for a request for rate increase in my monthly bills. My bill that at times I require assistance because I cannot afford to have heat AND feed my kids. On this month's bill, my rate difference between 2015 and 2016 was \$55.00. This is not the minimal amount of \$8.00-\$12.00 per month I read about. I am worried about the upcoming winter months and how I will be able to afford heat for my home. When I read stories of Avista's profits being Up 42% in 2014, and in 2015 there was a reported 123.22 million net income(amigobulls.com stock page). I can't understand why there is a need for yet another rate increase. I don't have the ability to choose my electric company. Avista has the monopoly on the majority of Spokane. I can't help but feel like Avista is taking advantage of the monopoly it has over the citizens of Spokane County. Many families in Spokane County can barely afford their Avista bills now – another increase and I know my family won't be able to.

Thank you,



Steffanie Shaw  
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