

From: [Roberts, Cheryl L](#)
To: [Public Involvement \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Francois, Jason](#); [Yonemitsu, Lori](#)
Subject: Docket Number 190789
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Attachments: [image001.png](#)

To the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

Shoreline Community College would like to thank Puget Sound Energy for today's (October 10) meeting to learn more about the proposed 16.2% rate increase for next year. Both the outreach and point of connection are very much appreciated.

However, such a steep, one-year increase is quite shocking. This will equate to approximately \$60,000 in additional costs to our operating budget with no opportunity to adjust.

As a state institution of higher education, our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, year-to-year. Our budget is already set, based on an average increase in operational cost throughout dozens of functions.

The College does not have the option of raising tuition or fees to compensate.

Due to the state funding model for community and technical colleges, our inability to increase revenue through rate changes of our own, and the pressure of increased costs throughout all operating functions, this large increase is an exceptional burden.

Without a doubt, this increase will impact our ability to serve our clients – the students and members of the community in which we all live. Our funding model does not allow for growth or adjustment. This extra expense must result in lost positions, reduced services, or financial risk exposure by reducing our cash reserve.

This rate increase is also certain to be a burden to companies, businesses, and educational centers in the entire region.

Given that many of our students are from underserved populations, this is a double financial weight. Our students must bear the 13% residential increase along with reduced opportunities for retraining and advancement provided by the local college system. This may be even further exacerbated by reduced working hours as businesses adjust to higher costs.

While Shoreline Community College recognizes that the utility companies must plan and fund infrastructure, code changes, and safety of service, this sudden increase of 16.2% is difficult for our community to accept.

The College requests that the Puget Sound Energy leadership reconsider the rate increase model. A smoother, eased slope over the next several years will ultimately benefit everyone in the service area by allowing for a period of adjustment and minimizing shock to the local economy.

Thank you for your time,

Cheryl Roberts, Ed.D.

President

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Pronouns: she, her, hers

