

27 September 2017

Michael L. Shevham  
7621 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99212

RECEIVED  
SEP 30 2019  
WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

UTC  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: Rate Increase Proposal

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this missive regarding a rate increase proposed by Avista Utilities in Spokane, Washington. It is my contention that this firm is in no need of a rate increase as I do not feel that they are an efficient steward of my payments as a rate payer. Avista is using **ratepayer's** monies to pay off **shareholders** expenses in doing business with a program called LIRAP.

It is my belief that the cost of LIRAP is a cost to Avista's shareholders as it is plainly a "cost of doing business" and normally would be standard business procedure. This is an accounting and or billing issue, not a rate payer issue. Avista allows payment for customer inconvenience at shareholders expense as per their literature, but charges rate payers for collection expense and enforcement charges. **If you are on the LIRAP Program you should be on the 'Budget Plan' where you can work within your fixed income, as I do.** Avista pays the utility expense of customers that spend the Summer at the casino, and the Winter "*crying poor*".

I do not think this LIRAP Program should be a rate payer expense and this type of money management does not lend itself to a rate increase. There is a Project Share donation opportunity on every billing statement for the people who want to contribute to helping people who won't pay for their utilities and the balance of rate payers should not have to contribute to this shareholder expense.

Avista can management their monies better and avoid any increase in rates at this time. Some "Green Energy" and "Climate Change" efforts are more political than cost efficient. More fair, efficient, and scientific management should be required.

Please consider 1. Asking repeat LIRAP 'customers' be required to join the Budget Plan to manage their fixed income. **There is no cost.**  
2. Change this expense to a shareholder's expense to provide better oversight on spending 3. Strive to make this program responsible, and not just a way of avoiding bad publicity. Thank you for your time and trouble in this matter.

Sincerely,

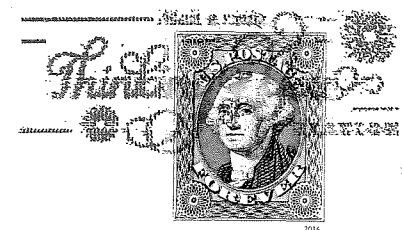
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Shevham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael L. Shevham

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SPOKANE WA 990

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