

Birs — 2-12

Was going to say  
"Sending in my 2<sup>nd</sup> worth"  
but nowadays, guess it's  
more like "my \$10<sup>00</sup> worth"  
I say NO - A BIG NO  
to increase at this  
time. I am of low  
income + disability  
and do what ever  
I can now. - My little  
cabin (534 sq ft) - with  
no washer/dryer/dishwa-  
set, + wood insert  
stove and just me  
& my Cat -  
Give us a break ->

RECEIVED

FEB 29 2012

WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

Learn to deal  
with your income  
as many of us have  
had to do.

— Linda Olson

22128 SR. 9

# 76

Mt Vernon, WA

98274

~~Comment Submitted~~

Herbert K. Hulse  
9818 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SE unit 31  
Lake Stevens, WA. 98258

February, 18, 2012

RECEIVED  
FEB 23 2012  
WASH. UT. & TP COMM

Mr. Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA. 98504-7250.

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 10 and for the opportunity to comment on PSE's proposed rate increase.

I am 90 year old widower struggling to pay my bills. Even though I have no debts, I am now in the process of disposing of most of my furniture And other goods with plans to move into a small apartment and sell my condo (if that is possible in today's market)

Creeping inflation has taken it's toll. Then too, a few years ago, it was possible to invest in U.S. Treasuries and CD's paying 4 or 5% or better in interest, with relative safety, to supplement the social security check Now. of course, the interest is practically 0. With low income, it's often necessary to draw down my meager savings and that can't continue.

But I consider myself fortunate. I can and will manage. But families, with part- time or no jobs are really struggling and even small increases in expenses are painful.

Isn't it correct that companies regularly acquire capital for expansion by using some of their profits, issue bonds or sell more shares of their stock Hopefully the planned expansion would, in time, increase their profits and thus grow their company. If PSE's rate request is partly for more investment capital that, to me, would b inappropriate.

A 2 1/2 % increase for residential is proposed. My last gas bill was \$137.58 So my increase would be \$3.43, It sounds insignificant but it isn't to me. Combine that with a \$5.00 January increase per month in my sewer bill. Add in other increases--Lake Stevens annexed our area and we now pay a 5% city tax on utilities, \$7.73 on my gas bill with PUD and Comcast bills Also taxed and it goes on and on.

I certainly appreciate the fact that the Commission is taking a hard look at the proposed rate increase and trimming it back. Please do look at

everything.

I do realize that my letter adds nothing at all in negotiating with PSE but I did want to let you know that your work is very important to many of us who are PSE's locked in customers. Hopefully, the huge amount of gas now being produced and the resulting rock bottom charges to utilities for the gas might actually reduce our bills a little.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herbert K. Hulse". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Herbert K. Hulse