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**From:** thomasrfogg@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 27, 2024 8:00 AM  
**To:** comments@utc.wa.gov; ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel; customercare@pse.com  
**Subject:** Dockets UE-240004 and UG-240005

[EXTERNAL]

To All Concerned Parties,

The proposed rate hikes, especially affecting natural gas usage, are completely irresponsible and outrageous. Older customers who live on a fixed income are experiencing difficult times as it is with the out-of-control inflation causing prices to spiral. Now there is a proposed 18.96% increase in natural gas in a one-year period. Millions of dollars have been arbitrarily thrown at the homelessness crisis and it continues to grow. This is a good snapshot as to the reason why. Keep passing on the cost of poor budgeting and management on the part of government and large corporations to the elderly, retired, and low income wage earners and those people will continue to join the ranks of the homeless. If the out of touch political elite and high dollar techies want to pass laws requiring cap and trade, allowing natural gas appliance phase out, and other utility mandates, let them suffer and pay for the monetary consequences.

Residential and small business customers have to carry the brunt of the poor decisions coming out of Olympia. Isn't it curious how in this case of rate increases being proposed these customers are represented by a division of the Washington State Attorney General's Office which reports to the same Governor who keeps passing mandates like cap and trade, and gas taxes that make our prices go up. And this same attorney general is now running for Governor on the same "raise the taxes and fees platform" as our current Governor. This sounds more like a conflict of interest than fair representation.

If you want to recoup these investments PSE claims these proposed rate increases are attributed to, maybe look scaling up the rates for large scale pollutants like trucking industries, refineries, and the airlines. Compare the usage and pollution rates there verses our vehicles and homes. As a side note - When gas prices in downtown San Francisco or Honolulu are equal to or more than prices in Shoreline Washington there is a problem. Believe it. I have a picture.

At what point do we admit this is excessive and abusive to the utility customers and when is it going to stop?

Thomas Fogg