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Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Via email comments@utc.wa.gov and utility@atg.wa.gov

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the builders and consumers in Washington, I am writing to express significant concerns regarding Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) proposed electric and natural gas rate increases for years 2025 and 2026 (Dockets UE-240004, UG-240005, and UE-230810).

The proposed increases would result in an average cost of \$19.04 per month (\$228.48 annually) for residential electric customers and \$15.47 per month (\$185.64 annually) for natural gas customers. While seemingly minor, these figures represent a significant financial strain for many households grappling with rising living costs.

While PSE cites increased operating costs as justification for the rate adjustments, this explanation falls short. Every business faces inflationary pressures, yet competitive markets do not permit unchecked price hikes. PSE's status as a regulated monopoly should come with a heightened sense of responsibility, not the ability to pass poorly planned financial burdens onto consumers without accountability. PSE has been maneuvering under the agencies regulatory oversight for years which has gotten us to this point. You should see what we deal with in our industry. We too suffer from PSE hiring sole source contractors creating a monopolistic scenario that artificially drives up costs. PSE should have the same requirements of any government agency when it comes to procurement when the government is responsible for its regulatory oversight. As long as they spend the money, they can justify to you that they need it. **THAT IS WRONG!**

I strongly urge the Commission to consider the requested increases' real-life impact on struggling Washingtonians and reject PSE's proposed rate adjustments for 2025 and 2026. Instead, I encourage the Commission to explore alternative paths that ensure PSE can maintain its operations without harming Washington families and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration. I trust the Commission will do right by the people of Washington State and prioritize the financial well-being of Washingtonians over the financial interests of PSE's shareholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kurt Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Kurt Wilson