

## Mak, Chanda (ATG)

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**From:** JAMES and LILY MILLER <jlmiller58@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 30, 2021 5:54 PM  
**To:** comments@utc.wa.gov  
**Cc:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PSE Rate Increase Application

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Washington UTC Commissioners,

I am commenting on the PSE request to increase rates that I was notified of in my most recent billing from PSE. I am a residential customer. The notice mentioned a hearing that I believe is scheduled for April 20, 2021 at 6:00 PM. There is mention of Docket UE-200980.

In the information provided to me there are four reasons stated for the requested rate increase of somewhere between 4.15% and 3.40% with the average for residential customers shown to be 3.56%.

Of the four reasons stated to justify the requested increase the number four reason stated is, "Decreasing customer electricity usage." Say what? We are constantly told to do our part to conserve energy. We are told to buy energy efficient products such as furnaces and hot water tanks. Yet PSE seems to take the position that if we do these things it is good cause for PSE to request a rate increase because LESS electricity is being consumed. In my opinion, this defies common sense. In other words if customers are using less of the supply than they have in the past then PSE is apparently saying, the customers need to have their rates increased to pay PSE more for LESS!

Taking into consideration that the current inflation rate is 1.68% and the Fed has stated there will likely be no interest rate hikes through 2023 why is it that PSE needs to raise rates by more than twice the inflation rate? Further, current mortgage rates to buy homes are less than the rate increase PSE is requesting. To allow the entire rate increase requested by PSE will certainly have an impact on increasing the rate of inflation.

PSE states two of the four reasons for the increase are new agreements and contracts. It would seem to me that possibly PSE needs to be a better negotiator in making agreements and contracts and not count on raising rates to make up for poor negotiating practices.

Respectfully submitted  
James Miller  
Puyallup, WA

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