

Charlie Smith

From: Charlie Smith on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 9:17 AM
To: 'Chris Shield'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Concern Regarding Proposed Base Rate Increase

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning Chris Shield,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240025, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Best regards,

Charlie Smith II

Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
850-413-6770

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From: Chris Shield <blazingfun@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2024 7:42 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Concern Regarding Proposed Base Rate Increase

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Open comment Committee,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed base rate increase for electricity. As a customer of Duke Energy, I believe it is important to share my perspective on this matter.

Firstly, the proposal to raise the base rate conflicts with longstanding efforts to promote energy conservation among customers. Programs such as energy audits and conservation recommendations have encouraged us to reduce our energy consumption. Increasing the base rate may discourage these conservation efforts. I suggest considering alternative approaches, such as adjusting the rate per kilowatt-hour, which could better align with principles of fairness and conservation.

Secondly, I seek clarification on how the additional revenue generated from the proposed rate increase will be utilized. Can Duke Energy assure customers that these funds will not be directed towards increases in salaries, compensation for employees, or returns to investors? Transparency in financial decisions is crucial for maintaining trust and accountability.

Furthermore, I encourage exploring alternative energy solutions, such as expanding incentives for homeowners to install solar panels. This approach could potentially reduce operational costs for Duke Energy and lessen the need for large-scale solar farm developments, benefiting both customers and the environment.

Lastly, as a member of my HOA, I have experienced firsthand the financial implications of minimum usage fees. These fees disproportionately affect customers who actively strive to conserve energy, contradicting efforts to promote efficiency and sustainability.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to reconsider the proposed base rate increase and to explore alternative strategies that uphold principles of conservation, transparency, and customer empowerment. I appreciate your consideration of these concerns.

Chris Shield
Tarpon Springs