

**Antonia Hover**

**From:** Cindy Muir <[CMuir@PSC.STATE.FL.US](mailto:CMuir@PSC.STATE.FL.US)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 28, 2024 7:39 AM  
**To:** Adam Teitzman <[ATEITZMA@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:ATEITZMA@psc.state.fl.us)>  
**Cc:** Angie Calhoun <[ACalhoun@PSC.STATE.FL.US](mailto:ACalhoun@PSC.STATE.FL.US)>; Kelly Thompson <[KTHOMPSO@PSC.STATE.FL.US](mailto:KTHOMPSO@PSC.STATE.FL.US)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: TECO Rate Increases

Hi Adam:

I believe this should be placed in TECO rate case correspondence file.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jesse Laing <[amijesse@yahoo.com](mailto:amijesse@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** August 27, 2024 at 6:44:29 PM EDT  
**To:** PSC Media <[PSCMedia@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:PSCMedia@psc.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** **TECO Rate Increases**

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed rate increases by Tampa Electric Company (TECO) in August 2024. While I understand that utility companies may occasionally need to adjust rates to maintain infrastructure and services, the current request for another increase so soon after the significant rate hikes we have seen in recent years is both unreasonable and unjustifiable.

In TECO's own communications at the end of 2023, the company highlighted several achievements, including reduced energy bills for 2024 due to lower natural gas prices and significant investments in solar energy. These initiatives were expected to provide stability and even reduce costs for customers. It is perplexing and concerning that, less than a year later, TECO is now requesting another rate increase, especially after these recent assurances of reduced costs and improved efficiency.

Additionally, the continued burden of increased energy costs falls disproportionately on residential customers, many of whom are already struggling with the rising cost of living. TECO's previous rate increases have already resulted in substantial financial strain on Florida residents, as evidenced by the \$60 per month increase in residential energy bills from 2021 to 2023. It is unreasonable to ask customers to bear even more financial burden, particularly when the company has recently touted cost savings from its solar investments and efficiency improvements.

It is also important to note that TECO's parent company, Emera Incorporated, has reported substantial profit margins in recent years. In 2022, Emera saw a 150% increase in profits since 2019, culminating in a \$483 million profit for the year . Given these strong financial results, it is difficult to justify why TECO would need to impose further rate hikes on its customers, especially at a time when those customers were promised lower bills due to declining fuel costs.

I urge the Public Service Commission to carefully scrutinize TECO's request and consider the significant financial impact this will have on Florida's residents. Given the company's recent commitments to cost reduction and efficiency, and its robust profit margins, there is a strong case to be made against further increasing rates at this time.

Please consider the well-being of the residents of Florida and reject this request for a rate increase. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Jesse Laing