

Charlie Smith

From: Charlie Smith on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 3:47 PM
To: 'Jacqueline Dolphin'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Keep Tampa Electric (TECO) Rates Down Docket# 20240026

Good afternoon Jacqueline Dolphin,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240026, 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: jmdolphin1234@yahoo.com@mg.gospringboard.io <jmdolphin1234@yahoo.com@mg.gospringboard.io> **On Behalf Of** Jacqueline Dolphin
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 2:28 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Keep Tampa Electric (TECO) Rates Down Docket# 20240026

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Dear PSC Member,

Florida's already large population of senior citizens is only increasing as the Baby Boomer generation continues to age. Neilsberg Research * reports Floridians 60 years of age and older comprise 27% of the State's population. Most are living on fixed incomes, already stressed by inflation. The Sunshine State has the nation's highest inflation rate, 3.91%, according to an analysis of index data by Moody's Analytics based on a three-month moving average. ** With the rising cost of insurance alone, affordable housing has become out of reach for those on fixed incomes.

TECO's proposed monthly base rate increases (using 1,000 kWh per month) will be nearly 22% per month higher, compared to 2024. *** Soaring high temperatures continue to breaking records, only adding to utility demand. TECO's rate hikes will only cause further hardship not only for senior citizens, but for all lower and middle-income households

struggling to make ends meet. Utility rate increases need to be made in the public interest -- and as such, must be fair and reasonable.

* Florida Population by Age - 2023 Florida Age Demographics | Neilsberg

** Inflation rises in March: Florida has highest inflation in U.S. (tallahassee.com)

*** Tampa Electric (TECO) Wants To Raise Your Rates! (aarp.org)

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Dolphin
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Unit 4100
Tampa FL, 33647-1504