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To: Kansas Corporation Commission
Re: Evergy Rate Increase Request
Docket 25-EKCE-207-PRE

On behalf of the citizens of the Capital City, and as a lifelong Topekan, Evergy customer and stockholder, I am writing to express my objection to Evergy's proposed rate increase that would impact Topeka. The substantial rate hike being requested puts an unnecessary burden on ratepayers at a time when the company has reported increased revenues and profits.

Profit vs. Need

Evergy reported 2024 earnings of \$877.9 million, an increase of more than \$62 million from 2023 earnings. This coming off 2023 in which earnings were also up. The rate increase request seems based less in a need to cover costs but more about generating higher earnings for the company and stockholders. As a stockholder and ratepayer myself, I contend the correct decision by your Commission at this time is to side with ratepayers, not decide based on a desire by Evergy for increased profits.

A Do-Over Effort

The Kansas Central Territory, of which Topeka is included, saw a rate increase two years ago. The initial request at that time was reduced but an increase was still put in place. This request seems an attempt to "complete" that 2023 request. During the 2023 hearings, the Commission determined that request was too high. Nothing has significantly changed from that time to warrant granting an increase at this time.

Unbalanced Request

This request only applies to users in the Central Territory. No request is being made for the Kansas Metro Territory. In 2023, when the rate case was settled, the Central Territory was

asked to bear the burden of a rate increase, while the Metro Territory received no increase. The past several years, considerable growth and construction by Evergy has occurred in the Metro Territory, and more is scheduled. It is an unbalanced request again to ask Central Territory customers to take on an increase, while the Metro Territory faces no increase despite making up a sizable portion of Evergy's current and future construction expenses.

Costly To Ratepayers

Estimates are this increase will add \$13 to the average residential customers bill, per month. That equates to \$156 per year. At a time when families are struggling with a rising cost of living, an increase in electricity rates would place an additional and unnecessary burden on our community.

As a citizen and elected representative, I appreciate the challenges of increased costs in construction and development. The service Evergy provides is essential, and the company has been a good partner in Topeka. However, as they record increased profits and are the beneficiary of other tax breaks and incentives provided by the State of Kansas, this rate increase seems unnecessary at this time.

Utility service is a necessity, and any rate hike should be scrutinized to ensure it is justified, equitable, and in the public interest. Evergy's proposed increase appears excessive at this time, especially given recent profit reports. Moreover, this rate hike request comes at a time when customers are struggling to make ends meet. For some, even a modest increase in monthly bills could force difficult choices between paying for power, food, or medicine.

I urge the Commission to thoroughly review Evergy's proposal and reject any increase not directly tied to improvements in service or infrastructure reliability for Topekans, versus a desire to increase the bottom line for stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Spencer Duncan

Rate Payer, Stockholder, Topekan, & City Councilmember