



E. WERNER RESCHKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 55

14 June 2024

To: Oregon Public Utility Commission
PO Box 1088
Salem OR 97308-1088

Subject: Opposition to Pacific Power Rate Increase Proposal
AHD – UE 433

I write to express **my stern opposition** to the rate increases proposed by Pacific Power. For nearly three years inflation has been plaguing Oregonians; now is the worst possible time for rate increases.

Electricity is at the foundation of our economy. **Any increase, no matter how small, ripples throughout the economy with a multiplier effect.** The proposed rate increase will dynamically and negatively impact the cost of everything which requires electricity to cool, light or power. Practically these rate increases will increase the cost of fuel, groceries, heating, cooling, medical care — literally everything. Business which incur these increased operational costs will merely pass these costs along by raising prices for their goods and services.

Moreover, the direct rate payer increases, by ~20%, is unprecedented in recent times. **Many Oregonians are trying to just afford the basics.** This request for rate increases by Pacific Power come at a time when many Oregonians are still behind in their budgets due to impacts of inflation.

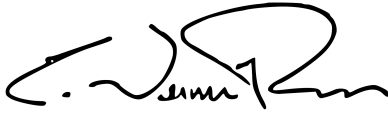
I understand the reasons for Pacific Power's request: wildfire protection, new capital investments and better insurance. **But these are not new or unforeseen costs.** Pacific Power should have been using their revenues and profits to prepare for such resiliency and improvements as part of their long-term planning. Rate payers should not be penalized for poor planning or mismanagement by a multi-billion dollar corporation.

Therefore, I sincerely request that the PUC rejects Pacific Power's request to increase rates.

Finally, here is a proposal that I recommend the PUC consider in order to help Oregonians combat inflation — **decrease rates by 1¢/kW across the board.** Just as a rate increase will negatively ripple through economy and hurt Oregonians, a rate cut would have the same dynamic impact, but yielding positive results. A rate reduction now would help quell the rising costs of almost everything and help Oregonians stretch their budgets. A rate reduction is something the PUC should consider (not a rate increase) to best serve the current needs of all Oregonians.

E. WERNER RESCHKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 55

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Werner Reschke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

E. WERNER RESCHKE

State Representative, HD 55
The Crater Lake District