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**BRAD ROAE**  
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**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

R-2016-2537352

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Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission  
PO Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Dear members of the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission;

I am respectfully requesting that you disapprove the excessive, reckless, arbitrary, capricious, and cruel rate increase request sought by Pennsylvania Electric Company (Penelec) which is a part of FirstEnergy Corp.

The \$283.32 increase in the annual cost for an average household in Crawford County and Erie County is completely unaffordable. The median household income in Crawford County is only \$43,622 according to the U. S. Census Bureau. The proposed increase is disproportional to the ability to pay. Our local people cannot afford it.

FirstEnergy Corp. is unfairly targeting residential customers of Penelec. They are proposing a 17.1% increase for residential customers. West Penn Power (another FirstEnergy Corp. company) would only have to pay a 9.64% increase under the arbitrary plan. I am concerned that there is a potential cross subsidization taking place where Penelec customers are being asked to pay a lot more so West Penn Power customers can pay a much lower increase.

Many of my constituents will lose access to electricity if this increase is approved. There are thousands of households already in our local area that can barely afford to pay their electric bills now. We have a very high percentage of public school students who qualify for the free and reduced price school lunch program. Our office is inundated each year with people seeking help in applying for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program for low income senior citizens and people with disabilities. Our local food pantries and soup kitchens can barely keep up with the demand. This proposed 17.1% increase would cause a severe hardship to both households and social service agencies.

Rural residents served in adjacent areas in Crawford and Erie Counties who are served by the Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative are not being subjected to this outrageous proposed increase. If the sparsely populated rural areas with only a few customers per mile of power

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lines does not need this excessive amount of increase a utility with many customers per mile should not need one.

Penelec customers have been paying for "Smart Meters" for the past several years by previously enacted legislation. Part of the cruel rate request is to collect again for "Smart Meters" that consumers already paid for. The "Customer Charge" part of the bill already covers "Smart Meters".

Disapproving the request is the only reasonable course of action to protect residential customers from the electric monopoly.

Sincerely,

*Brad Roae*

Pennsylvania State Representative Brad Roae 6th Legislative District  
900 Water Street  
Meadville, PA 16335



House of Representatives

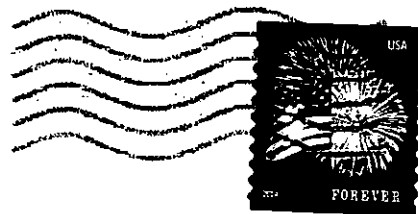
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**BRAD ROAE, MEMBER**

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