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April 29, 2024

Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Street
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Docket No. R-2024-3047068

Dear Commissioner DeFrank:

I write today to express my opposition to the proposed rate hikes filed by FirstEnergy Pennsylvania Electric Company. The requested rate increases would mean Med-Ed, Penelec, Penn Power and West Penn customers will pay an additional \$504 million per year for their electricity. This amounts to 29 to 55 percent increases in residential fixed customer charges plus 9 to 12 percent hikes on kilowatt hour usage, depending upon a customer's rate district.

These double-header rate hikes would unfairly burden residents who can least afford to pay it. In my district, many residents are older and on fixed incomes, or struggle generally to make ends meet. Even before surging inflation rates over the last two years hiked the price of everyday goods, Johnstown was labeled the poorest small city in Pennsylvania. My constituents simply cannot bear a rate increase of this magnitude.

The Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate has filed a formal complaint against FirstEnergy's proposed increases and has requested a suspension of rate proposal to allow interested parties to examine the request and provide input. I support this request by the Consumer Advocate.

Furthermore, I strongly oppose the FirstEnergy rate increase request and urge the Commission to reject the proposal. Thank you for your consideration, and if you have any questions regarding my position, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Burns".

Frank Burns
State Representative
72nd Legislative District