

11TH DISTRICT  
STATE SENATOR  
**JUDITH L. SCHWANK**  
SENATE BOX 203011  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3011  
717-787-8925  
FAX: 717-772-0578

210 GEORGE STREET  
SUITE 201  
READING, PA 19605  
610-929-2151  
FAX: 610-929-2576

EMAIL: senatorschwank@pasenate.com  
WEBSITE: www.SenatorSchwank.com

Democratic Caucus Administrator



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS,  
DEMOCRATIC CHAIR  
AGING & YOUTH  
APPROPRIATIONS  
GAME & FISHERIES  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE SYSTEM  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION,  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

R-2024-3047068

Secretary's Bureau  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RCVD PUC SEC BUR  
JUN 27 2024 AM 11:02

June 24, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to the proposed rate increase by FirstEnergy. I would first like to thank the Pennsylvania Utility Commission (PUC) and the distinguished judges for providing residents of the 11<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District the opportunity to comment on FirstEnergy's rate increase request at the public input hearing on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Reading, Pennsylvania. This process is so vitally important in ensuring that the public has a forum in which they can make their voices heard on an issue which not only impacts their daily financial wellbeing, but also their accessibility to a utility necessary to daily life.

During my thirteen years in the Pennsylvania Senate representing the 11th Senatorial District, I have presented testimony related to utility rate increase requests countless times - including requests made by FirstEnergy. Utility rate increase requests have always presented concerns for me, but I find it especially alarming considering the inflated prices my constituents are facing on life's essentials like food and housing. It was just a short time ago that I testified against a proposed water and wastewater rate increase impacting residents of the 11th District. In the present environment, I am quite certain that very few, if any, ratepayers can afford any sort of rate increase.

The utility is seeking an annual increase in revenues of \$503,848,000 (34%) for electric distribution services provided to customers in the Med-Ed, Penelec, Penn Power, and West Penn Power Rate Districts, which serve about 2.1 million customers in 56 counties across the Commonwealth. A \$503 million increase in revenue and a 34% rate increase are not insubstantial numbers. To an individual, family, older adult, or small business owner, a 34% rate increase is not a minute shift in monthly expenses. A rate increase of any sort presents a hardship to ordinary citizens that must be considered in this decision.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Commission to carefully review and consider the testimony presented by citizens, advocates, and experts during the public input hearing process, considering the significant impact the requested rate increases will have on FirstEnergy customers from across all sectors. Any final decision rendered must be just and ensure that additional undue hardship is not placed on ratepayers - especially not when it could jeopardize access to a utility necessary to life. Thank you for your courtesy and consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith L. Schwank".

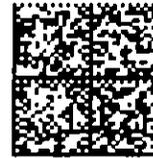
Judith L. Schwank  
State Senator - 11<sup>th</sup> District

JLS/TH

**Senate of Pennsylvania**

11TH DISTRICT  
**JUDITH L. SCHWANK**  
SENATE BOX 203011  
THE STATE CAPITOL  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3011

FIRST-CLASS



US POSTAGE<sup>SM</sup> PTNEY BOWES



ZIP 17102 \$ 000.64<sup>0</sup>  
02 7W  
0008028701 JUN 25 2024

Secretary's Bureau  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

17120-3011

