

Docket Number 15-WSEE-115-RTS

Dear Kansas Corporation Commission,

Thank you for considering public comments when making the final decision on this rate case. I appreciate the recent tentative agreement to increase the rates to a lesser amount. Although, recovering cost through a fixed charge structure limits customers' ability to control their energy bills.

My husband and I recently purchased a 600 square-foot home in Lawrence, KS which we are in the process of remodeling. Our decision to purchase a smaller house was based on our values to live frugally and consume less, for the sake of saving money and decreasing our impact on the environment. When we made the purchase, saving on electricity cost from powering such a small space was one of the driving factors in our decision. The proposed increased fixed rate by Westar not only discourages less consumption of energy, but punishes us for using less electricity. If you allow this proposal to go through, we will be paying the same high amount per month in fixed charges as home-owners who's houses are two, three, and often four times bigger than ours.

Self-sufficiency is important to us, and we are planning to invest in solar panels for our home. We are grateful that solar rates will be discussed at a future docket; nevertheless, we are also concerned with the uncertainty of what the future solar customer rates will be. Not knowing how much Westar will charge us for being connected to the grid makes it impossible to budget for our solar investment.

I am grateful for the environmental updates Westar has invested in and as a customer, I am willing to do my part in helping recover the cost. Although, there are more fair ways of recovering cost than a higher fixed charge, such as integrating the cost into the price of energy. Charging customers for the energy they use would fairly distribute the cost and give consumers the freedom to control their energy bills.

As energy usage decreases, we need utility models and rates that reflect choices for Westar customers such as energy efficiency and renewable energy. Continuing raising rates is not a sustainable model, with everyone (customers, Westar, investors) losing in the long-term.

I sincerely hope that you will consider alternative structures for recovering cost.

Thank you very much!

Olga Khakova