

Westar's proposed fixed charge increase will affect every Westar customer. Climate and Energy Project encourages you to share what the increase in fixed charge means to you. Below, you will find a template that may be helpful when sharing your perspective with a news source/editor near you. Please personalize this template with your story and opinion on the issue. Additional information is available at <http://climateandenergy.org/page.52.utility-bill-increases>

Dear Commissioners,

My name is _____

I appreciate the reliability of the electrical grid and support the investments in infrastructural upgrades and maintenance. Nevertheless, the proposed fixed rate increase in the residential service charge from \$12/month to \$27/month by 2019 is not the most optimal long-term solution for Westar, its customers, and investors.

Sample statements:

- I am a homeowner who values the freedom to save on my electric bill through energy efficiency investments around my home. The fixed rate increase discourages energy conservation and penalizes accountability in energy usage.
- I enjoy the cost savings from my recently purchased solar panels. The new fixed rate structure limits my electricity plan options to more expensive and less efficient alternatives, no matter how much energy my solar panels produce.
- I planned on purchasing solar panels to save on my electric bill and to have a positive impact on the environment. The fixed rate increase is discouraging me from investing in the solar energy due to high inflexible fixed rates and limited options available for solar customers.
- I am a part of a low-income family that functions on a limited budget. The fixed rates increase takes away my flexibility to control energy bills by using less electricity. The mandatory fixed charge will put a strain on my ability to purchase everyday essentials.

All of Westar's proposed rate plan options are complex to understand and currently include the higher customer charge, which will negatively affect me (and my family).

As someone who will be greatly affected by the fixed rate increase, I urge Westar to engage in the conversation with their customers and other stakeholders on finding alternative ways to offsets increased costs in a fair and economically viable way. One of many potential solutions is revenue decoupling. Reasonable profit goals are set, annually evaluated, and adjusted accordingly. Investors will have guaranteed profits and the customers will have more freedom and control of their energy consumption and payments.

Thank you considering other options for recovering costs while saving energy and money for Kansans! Your customers appreciate being included in the decision-making process!

Name

Contact information: phone, email, address