I strongly oppose the proposed 18% electric rate increase. Our electric bills are already extremely expensive, and another substantial increase is simply becoming too much for families to absorb.

While shopping around for electric suppliers has been part of the process for some time, it is already an inconvenience that customers have to navigate just to try to manage their electricity costs. Now, with an additional 18% rate hike on the horizon, where is the consideration for the consumers who are already struggling to keep up?

For our family personally, we rely on electric heat, so this increase will have a direct and significant impact on our household budget. With the rising costs of groceries, gas, housing, and just about every other necessity, families are already stretched thin.

We also pay a significant portion of our electric bills toward public assistance programs. While helping those in need is important, the financial burden on the customers paying these costs needs to be acknowledged as well. Working families need assistance too, especially when we're trying to manage our own rising expenses and responsibilities.

Electricity is not a luxury; it is a necessity. An 18% increase is not just a number on paper. It represents real money coming out of household budgets that are already under tremendous pressure. At what point do the needs and financial realities of everyday ratepayers become part of the conversation? We deserve affordable, reliable electricity without constantly being asked to absorb another increase.