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JUN 25 2024

Oregon Public Utilities Commission  
201 High St SE #100,  
Salem, OR 97301

P.U.C

Dear Public Utility Commission,

As the City Manager for the City of Gresham, I am writing to express feedback that my office has received from constituents in Gresham, regarding the proposed 7.4% rate increase by Portland General Electric (PGE).

We value PGE's partnership with our community, yet the cumulative impact of rate increases, now totaling over 30% since December 2022, poses a significant burden on our most vulnerable residents, especially after the financial strains caused by historic inflation, and wages remaining flat. In Gresham, nearly one in four residents are 55 or older, many relying on social security and are on fixed incomes.

This body may deem these rates to be acceptable, but I believe that any proposed rate increases necessitate a broader discussion not only about the resilience of our energy infrastructure, particularly given the unique challenges of our geographic and climatic conditions, but also about the equitable support mechanisms for our most vulnerable populations. This letter is intended to elevate the concerns that I have received from diverse populations and also convey that we all still have work to do to ensure a safe, affordable and resilient power system.

In light of these historic rate increases, I urge you to advocate for the implementation of expanded support options for our elderly, income-challenged individuals, and other vulnerable groups. It is essential that our energy policies reflect a commitment to inclusivity and support for all residents, ensuring that no one is left behind as costs rise.

Additionally, a review of climate related power outages and what collective steps the state, cities and counties can do to bolster grid resilience.

Your leadership could guide significant reforms in how we approach energy affordability and sustainability. I am hopeful that with your support at the hearing, we can influence policies that prioritize the long-term welfare of all Gresham residents.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue. I look forward to your proactive engagement at the hearing.

Warm regards,



Eric Schmidt  
City Manager  
City of Gresham

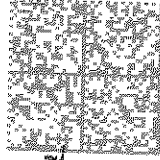
Cc: Raihana Ansary, PGE

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