



September 23, 2024

Oregon Public Utility Commission
201 High St. SE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-3398

Dear Chair Decker and Commissioners Perkins and Tawney,

I am writing to express my concerns about Portland General Electric's (PGE) plan to raise their rates to address infrastructure improvements. While I understand the need to maintain, improve, and harden our infrastructure, the timing and size of this increase places a heavy burden on Tigard residents, especially those already struggling to make ends meet.

The proposed 10.9% rate increase for 2025 follows other large increases, including an 18% rise in January 2024. Since 2021, PGE's residential rates have risen by over 40%, making it difficult for many families to keep up. Low-income families are being hit the hardest, and there is growing concern about the number of people losing their power because they cannot afford their bills.

Many people in Tigard are already trying to manage rising costs for housing, food, and other essentials. This additional rate increase would make things even harder, and more families could lose their power, adding to the difficulties they are already facing. The timing is especially concerning as families continue to recover from the pandemic and other financial challenges.

I understand the need to invest in our energy systems to ensure they remain reliable, but I urge the Commission to explore options that prioritize making energy affordable. It is crucial to find a solution that balances these upgrades with the financial realities of our community.

We invite you to work collaborative with community leaders, particularly those representing vulnerable groups. Through this engagement, you will not only learn about the experiences of these community members but have the opportunity to co-create inclusive solutions that meet the needs of stakeholders, consider the realities of customers, and support the interests of all those who live in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Lueb".

Heidi Lueb
Mayor of Tigard