



# City of Talent

Office of the City Manager

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February 6, 2025

*Via electronic filing to [puc.publiccomments@puc.oregon.gov](mailto:puc.publiccomments@puc.oregon.gov)*

Oregon Public Utility Commission  
201 High Street SE, Suite 100  
Salem, Oregon 97301-3398

**Re: UG 519- Avista Natural Gas Rate Revision**

Dear Chair Decker and Commissioners Tawney and Perkins,

On behalf of the Talent City Council, the governing body for the City of Talent, I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed utility rate increase submitted by Avista Natural Gas. Avista's proposal places an undue burden on Talent's residents, particularly our most vulnerable populations. Residential ratepayers, already facing difficult financial conditions, will experience disproportionate price increases that impact low-income residential ratepayers the most, particularly in the winter months. Investments in new pipes and prioritizing shareholder profits will hurt our City's residents. If Avista's 7% increase is permitted, residential customers could pay bills that are on average \$4.27 higher per month. Single-family homes may see an average monthly bill of \$69 (and maybe as high as \$130 in December) and multi-family homes will see an increase of \$3.16, or \$66 average per month (\$126 in December).

We recognize the necessity of some infrastructure investments to keep pipes safe. However, the largest investment Avista plans to make is in its pipeline, adding millions of dollars to our residents' bills for decades. As the state continues to work diligently to address the housing crisis and build affordable housing, while meeting its climate goals, it is critical that we are building with sustainability in mind. Specifically, we must ensure that we are not further driving the climate crisis by increasing the use of fossil fuels and investing in gas infrastructure.

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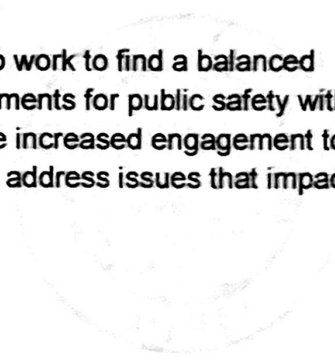
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We urge the Commission to consider these points carefully and to work to find a balanced approach that supports only the necessary infrastructure improvements for public safety without placing an undue burden on ratepayers and the climate. We value increased engagement to understand the pressures facing Avista, and collaborative work to address issues that impact our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Signed,



Darby Ayers-Flood  
Mayor  
City of Talent



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