

January 21, 2014

Dear Commissioners,

My neighbor was visiting me the other day and was telling me how excited he was to start saving electricity. He said that he had changed all of the regular light bulbs in his home to "cfl" light bulbs. I told him that you get an "A" for effort, but in the end it won't make a difference. He asked why, I then told him that we have two organizations that are working against us. Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) and the Public Service Commission (PSC). I then shared the following thoughts regarding just residential customers. Around 25% of them are upper class and make enough money that they do not care about how much their power bill is. The other 75% which consists of struggling lower and middle class households do care about how much their power bill is. RMP punishes people for saving electricity. How? By continually raising rates to compensate for the power the customers are trying to save.

Questions . . . When you are hurting for money you shouldn't be giving it away. How much money does RMP brag about donating to charities, and then cries poverty to the PSC? How much money does RMP spend on advertising, encouraging us to be "Watt Smart" and save electricity just to cry poverty to the PSC and raise rates?

RMP is not responsible enough to create and implement a program of their own and on their own that offers reduced rates for struggling households, they leave it up to other organizations to do so. RMP does not want to bring up the issue of tracking down and eliminating waste within the company. They don't bring it up, and the PSC never asks. In essence, what RMP is saying is: "We don't care if you're a struggling household on a fixed income. We will continually raise your rates with no end in site, and we will use the PSC to do it". RMP does not want the PSC to be a strong advocate for the people.

The Public Service Commission

Despite the public image that you portray, in actuality it seems that you serve corporate interests at the expense of the people. Why is the PSC such a poor advocate for the people? It's always easy to hurt people that you don't know, especially when you don't have to face those that you hurt. Is it that difficult for those that claim to serve us to have some sense of honor and integrity? When it comes to the idea of "Are you honest in your dealings with your fellow man?", do they leave that principle at home on the shelf before they leave for work in the morning?

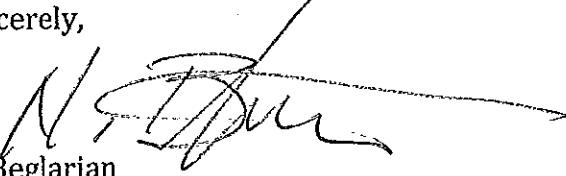
There is a Solution

If I were a PSC commissioner, I would do the following: 1) I would start being a strong advocate of the people and stop catering to the whims of corporations, reminding myself daily that I will be held accountable for all of my decisions, especially those decisions that hurt people and favor corporations. 2) I would tell RMP "Don't come to us with any rate requests until you meet the following criteria: In this bad economy, when everyone has had to tighten their belts, corporations are no exceptions, and it is time to tighten yours. When the majority of your low and middle-class customers get a raise from their jobs, then you will get a raise. 3) "The people" whom you view as just open wallets, are people and should be treated as such. As a Commissioner, I would not add to the burden of already struggling households. I would not participate either directly or indirectly in corporate over-reach.

The people should not have to beg for strong representation from the PSC. I would appreciate a response to this letter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



N. Beglarian
Salt Lake City Resident

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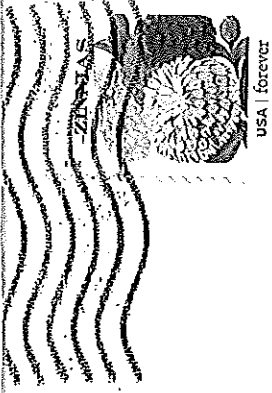
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