

From: "Jill Ball" <tallandblonde@hotmail.com>
To: <mlivingston@utah.gov>
Date: 6/5/2007 7:12 PM
Subject: Proposed Rule Change

June 5, 2007

Merilee Livingston
Public Service Commission
Heber M Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Dear Ms Livingston,

I understand that the Public Service Commission is considering changing its rules to make it more difficult for Utah ratepayers to make their voices heard in the utility regulation process. That such a change is even being considered is deeply troubling, threatening as it does to further distance people from a governmental process that is supposed to be by them and of them.

It is shameful that the Division of Public Utilities and the Committee of Consumer Services have not been fulfilling their statutory obligation to effectively represent the interests of individual consumers of late; even if they were, I cannot think of a valid reason ever to preclude ratepayer input on issues that directly affect them. Clearly the vested interests of the utility companies are at work here, and any action taken by the commission should facilitate, rather than impede, the participation of individual customers.

Lastly, I notice that many of the comments you have received thus far suggest that the Commission or the utility should pay the costs of legal representation should the proposed changes be implemented. I am opposed to the utilities' assumption of this financial obligation and suggest that the Commission alone be required to pay such costs, placing the burden where it belongs in the first place. Indeed, were not the utility companies spending so much money on expensive lawyers tasked with pushing through these proposed changes, I daresay our rates would be more reasonable than they are now.

Sincerely,

Jill S Nelson

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