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To: <mlivingston@utah.gov>
Date: 5/31/2007 10:43 AM
Subject: Change of PSC rules regarding ratepayer participation

I recently received information that the PSC is deciding whether to change its rules so as to curtail the participation of individual ratepayers in PSC hearings. I have not received a copy of the rule change and would like a copy sent to me if at all possible prior to the hearing on this issue, which, I am informed, has been set for June 6, 2007.

I believe that individual ratepayers should have the right to speak for themselves in issues which involve the actual or proposed utility rates for which the ratepayers will be charged. That alone should give the ratepayers standing to voice their opinions, either in opposition or in favor of action being taken which may affect individual budgets. Any changes to rules involving public hearings should lean in favor of letting all interests being heard, especially the interests of those most affected, usually the consumer ratepayers. Please let me also note that such hearings should always be conducted in open and as public hearings, not conducted behind closed doors, as some of the State of Utah's public institutions/entities appear wont to do on important issues.

Since the whole controversy over the departure of Roger Ball, his successor (who, I believe, represented utility interests prior to her appointment and somewhat speedy departure) and the apparent unwillingness of the PSC to listen to consumer advocates, such as Clair Geddes, I have not seen much news coverage of utility rate issues - and I am an avid reader of daily newspapers as well as a listener to local radio and television news coverage. It does not seem that the interests of consumer ratepayers have been represented by either the Committee charged with representing those very interests of the consumers or the Division of Public Utilities, which have been charged with balancing all interests.

As far as changing rules to require representation of an individual or group by an attorney, this seems to fly in the face of basic American precepts that each person/group/entity has the right to represent him/her/itself in proceedings affecting

his/her/its rights. Question: would I, a licensed attorney in good standing with the Utah State Bar, be required under the proposed rule change to hire a separate attorney? If not, doesn't that discriminate against those who may be more well informed than I, but do not have a license to practice law? If you do require consumers/groups to obtain legal representation, then the utility should pay the costs. Otherwise, there would be a chilling effect which would prevent ratepayers, who do not generally have the same financial resources as the utilities being

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regulated, from bringing their (the ratepayers) concerns to the attention of the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Kathy (Kate) A.F. Davis

Attorney

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