

OFFICIAL EXHIBITS

STATE OF INDIANA

BEFORE THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PETITION OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER)
COMPANY, AN INDIANA CORPORATION, FOR (1))
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES AND)
CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY SERVICE)
THROUGH A PHASE IN RATE ADJUSTMENT; (2))
APPROVAL OF: REVISED DEPRECIATION RATES;)
ACCOUNTING RELIEF; INCLUSION IN BASIC)
RATES AND CHARGES OF QUALIFIED)
POLLUTION CONTROL PROPERTY, CLEAN)
ENERGY PROJECTS AND COST OF BRINGING)
I&M'S SYSTEM TO ITS PRESENT STATE OF)
EFFICIENCY; RATE ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM)
PROPOSALS; COST DEFERRALS; MAJOR STORM)
DAMAGE RESTORATION RESERVE AND)
DISTRIBUTION VEGETATION MANAGEMENT)
PROGRAM RESERVE; AND AMORTIZATIONS;)
AND (3) FOR APPROVAL OF NEW SCHEDULES OF)
RATES, RULES AND REGULATIONS.)

IURC
INTERVENOR'S

EXHIBIT NO.

DATE

REPORTER

CAUSE NO. 44967

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

KERWIN L. OLSON

ON BEHALF OF

CITIZENS ACTION COALITION OF INDIANA, INDIANA COALITION FOR HUMAN
SERVICES, INDIANA COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION, & SIERRA CLUB

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

**Testimony of Kerwin L. Olson
On Behalf of Joint Intervenors
Cause No. 44967
November 7, 2017**

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY

Q. Please state your name, position and business address.

A. My name is Kerwin L. Olson, and I am the Executive Director of Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Inc. (“CAC”). My business address is 603 E. Washington Street, Suite 502, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

Q. Please describe your current responsibilities.

A. I have served as CAC’s Executive Director since June of 2011. I am CAC’s chief public policy spokesperson and its chief operating officer and am responsible to its Board of Directors for the overall program and operations management of the organization. Major priorities are established by CAC’s membership at its annual meetings and broad policies are adopted by the Board of Directors at its quarterly meetings. I provide development, supervision and coordination for the implementation of policies and programs based on these priorities. My current responsibilities also include: issue and policy research; lobbying at the Statehouse; legislative outreach and education; community and media outreach; writing press releases, guest columns and op-ed columns; and community and member organizing. I am also CAC’s representative on the board of the Indiana Coalition for Human Services and for other organizations and committees, and I supervise CAC’s participation on numerous energy efficiency and demand-side-management collaborative oversight boards.

1 **Q. Please briefly summarize your prior employment and educational**
 2 **background.**

3 A. I studied American History at the University of Chicago from 1986 to 1989. I
 4 joined the staff at CAC twelve years ago in 2005, working in member outreach.
 5 In 2006, I became CAC's Public Outreach Coordinator, served briefly as its
 6 Phone Canvass Director in early 2008, and then served as CAC's Program
 7 Director from the beginning of April of 2008. My responsibilities included
 8 performing (and supervising others who performed) research on energy and
 9 regulatory issues. I have been CAC's primary legislative liaison since 2008. I
 10 have served as Executive Director of CAC since June of 2011. I have attended
 11 numerous workshops and seminars on energy, energy efficiency, low-income and
 12 consumer issues. renewable energy, coal, coal gasification, carbon capture and
 13 sequestration, biomass and bio-fuels, and nuclear energy.

14 **Q. Have you previously filed testimony before the Indiana Utility Regulatory**
 15 **Commission ("IURC" or "Commission")?**

16 A. I have testified before the Commission numerous times, including in Cause Nos.
 17 43114 IGCC-4S1, 43114 IGCC 5, 43114 IGCC 6, 43114 IGCC 7, 43114 IGCC 9,
 18 43114 IGCC-4S3, 43114 IGCC-15, 43912 (NIPSCO DSM), 43967 (Indiana
 19 Gasification), 44067 (SIGECO Dense Pack), 43912 (NIPSCO Feed-In Tariff),
 20 43653 (Duke CCS study), 43669 (gas universal service programs), 43839
 21 (SIGECO rates), 44310 (Self-Direct Investigation), 44339 (IPL CCGT and HSS
 22 Refueling), 44441 (Implementation of SEA 340), 44478 (IPL EV), 44720 (Duke
 23 TDSIC), 44765 (Duke CCR), 44872 (NIPSCO CCR), 44910 (Vectren TDSIC),

1 44963 (DEI AMI Opt Out Tariff), and 44945 (IPL 2018-2020 DSM). In addition,
 2 my duties require me to testify before several of the Indiana General Assembly's
 3 House and Senate committees and participate in panel discussions in public
 4 forums.

5 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?**

6 **A.** I am testifying on behalf of CAC, the Indiana Coalition for Human Services
 7 ("ICHHS"), Indiana Community Action Association ("INCAA") and Sierra Club
 8 ("SC") (collectively, "Joint Intervenors" or "JI").

9 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

10 **A.** My testimony supports Joint Intervenors' request for the Commission to deny
 11 Indiana Michigan Power Company's ("I&M" or the "Company") request to
 12 increase the monthly service charge for residential customers from \$7.30 to \$18
 13 per customer and instead find that it is reasonable to maintain the monthly charge
 14 at its current level and recover any additional revenue requirement via the energy
 15 charge. (Nollenberger Direct, page 10). My testimony also supports Joint
 16 Intervenors' request for a comprehensive low-income bill assistance program that
 17 targets current bill benefits to assist I&M's most vulnerable customers, or, in the
 18 alternative, an investigation into this issue for I&M's customers, as well as for the
 19 customers of all the Indiana jurisdictional electric utilities.

20 **Q. What did you do to prepare yourself to testify for this proceeding?**

21 **A.** I reviewed most of the pre-filed direct testimony of I&M witnesses and the
 22 transcripts from the three field hearings conducted in this case. I have also
 23 spoken to multiple members of the public regarding the proposed rate increase.

1 **Q. Are there attachments to your testimony?**

2 **A.** Yes. I am sponsoring the following attachments:

- 3 • Attachment KLO-1 Index of Witnesses South Bend Field Hearing
- 4 • Attachment KLO-2 Transcript of South Bend Field Hearing
- 5 • Attachment KLO-3 John Pinter handout South Bend Field Hearing
- 6 • Attachment KLO-4 Beverly Torres handout South Bend Field Hearing
- 7 • Attachment KLO-5 Index of Witnesses Ft. Wayne Field Hearing
- 8 • Attachment KLO-6 Transcript of Ft. Wayne Field Hearing
- 9 • Attachment KLO-7 Index of Witnesses Muncie Field Hearing
- 10 • Attachment KLO-8 Transcript of Muncie Field Hearing

11

12 **Q. Who will be testifying on behalf of Joint Intervenors in this proceeding?**

13 **A.** In addition to myself, below is a brief summary of the witnesses and the

14 corresponding subject matter:

- 15 • Mr. Jonathan F. Wallach (JI Exhibit 2), Vice President of Resource Insight, Inc.:
 - 16 ○ The purpose of JI Witness Wallach's testimony is to (1) respond to the
 - 17 testimony by I&M witness Matthew W. Nollenberger regarding the
 - 18 Company's proposal to increase the monthly service charge for residential
 - 19 customers to \$18.00 per customer, and (2) perform an analysis of the
 - 20 estimated actual cost to connect a residential customer based on the results
 - 21 of the Company's customer cost of service study.
- 22 • Mr. John Howat (JI Exhibit 3), Senior Policy Analyst at the National Consumer
- 23 Law Center ("NCLC"):
 - 24 ○ The purpose of JI Witness Howat's testimony is to (1) describe the need
 - 25 for and recommend the Commission direct I&M to implement a
 - 26 comprehensive low-income bill payment assistance program that targets
 - 27 current benefits to I&M customers eligible to participate in the federal

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (“LIHEAP”) and includes an arrearage management design component (or, in the alternative, that the Commission initiate an investigation into the matter), (2) recommend that I&M report monthly to the Commission and stakeholders data regarding general residential and low-income customer accounts, billing, receipts, arrearages, notices of disconnections, bill payment agreements, disconnections of service for nonpayment, reconnections of service after disconnection for non-payment, accounts written off as uncollectible, and accounts sent to collection agencies, (3) present evidence demonstrating that increasing utility cost recovery from the volumetric to the monthly customer charge portion of bills disproportionately harms low volume consumers within a rate class, and (4) recommend that I&M revise its proposed change to its Terms and Conditions relating to remote disconnection of service to include a requirement for I&M, in each case where remote disconnection is being considered, to (a) provide a report to the Commission of the circumstances under which it is proposing to use remote disconnection and (b) obtain approval from the Commission to proceed with the remote disconnection.

- Ms. Jessica Fraser (JI Exhibit 4), Director of the Indiana Institute for Working Families (“IIWF”), a program of INCAA:

- The purpose of JI Witness Fraser’s testimony is to explain the economic difficulties facing low-income Hoosiers overall with a focus on the

1 following counties which have the highest number of customers served by
 2 I&M: Allen, Delaware, Elkhart, Grant, Madison, and St. Joseph.

3 **II. FIELD HEARING TESTIMONY**

4 **Q. Did a representative for Joint Intervenors attend each of the three field**
 5 **hearings conducted in this proceeding?**

6 **A.** Yes. Joint Intervenors attended and heard passionate testimony from I&M
 7 customers and community leaders about I&M's proposals in this general rate
 8 case. I personally attended the field hearings held in South Bend and Ft. Wayne.
 9 Out of a total of 102 individuals who testified at all three of the field hearings, not
 10 one voiced support for I&M's proposed rate increase. Concerns were expressed
 11 about the impact this request will have on fixed- and low-income households by
 12 many, if not the majority, of those who spoke. Opposition to the increase in the
 13 monthly fixed charge was loud and vast, not only because of the disproportionate
 14 impact that it would have on fixed- and low-income customers, but also because
 15 of the negative impact that an increased monthly fixed charge would have on
 16 efforts to conserve energy, and control energy costs through investments in
 17 energy efficiency or the self-generation of energy from solar panels.

18 **Q. Did individuals from agencies or organizations that provide poor relief or**
 19 **assistance to low-income households testify at the South Bend field hearing?**

20 **A.** Yes, there were several who provided testimony under oath. John Pinter, the
 21 Director of the United Religious Community¹ (URC) of South Bend, stated that

¹ <http://www.urcsjc.org/>

1 his comments were not “meant to be pro- or anti- anything,”² but rather he asked
 2 the Commission “to keep the lowest income people in your hearts and minds”³ as
 3 this case is being deliberated. The URC provides emergency relief to low-income
 4 households for necessities like rent and utilities. Mr. Pinter provided a handout⁴
 5 with his testimony which displayed that out of URC’s total expenditures of
 6 \$141,000 over the last two years, I&M received \$83,000 or nearly 59% of URC’s
 7 available relief funding. Mr. Pinter’s handout also displayed that NIPSCO
 8 received \$37,000, and Mishawaka Utilities received \$18,000 from URC. Nearly
 9 98% of the expenditures of the URC go toward utility bill emergency assistance.
 10 After utility assistance is distributed, a mere \$3,000 is left for URC to assist low-
 11 income households with the many needs they may face. Mr. Pinter also referenced
 12 that relief funds are significantly down this year.⁵

13 Two members of the St. Peter Claver Worker Community⁶ expressed
 14 concern regarding the impact that the rate increase in general, and the increase in
 15 the fixed charge specifically, would have on their community and low-income
 16 customers.⁷

17 A volunteer with Help to Love⁸, Mr. Paul A. Williams, told the
 18 Commission that Help to Love calls him when low-income households need
 19 home repairs done. He expressed concern about the rate increase considering one

² Attachment KLO-2, page A-4, line 25.

³ *Id.*, page A-5, line 25 – page A-6, line 1.

⁴ Attachment KLO-3.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ <http://southbendcatholicworker.org/>

⁷ Attachment KLO-2, pages A-9 – A-12.

⁸ <http://www.helpwithlove.org/>

1 of the households he assisted was struggling to find \$29.99 needed to pay the one-
2 time charge for an adapter kit to install a water heater.⁹

3 Beverly Torres provided a handout¹⁰ and testified on behalf of Stone Soup
4 Community,¹¹ a social service agency that assists low-income households with
5 utility bills and provides many other services. She stated that requests for
6 assistance with electric bills are higher than any other utility service, and have
7 been for the 10 years that she's worked there. She also provided a compelling
8 example of the day to day struggles of households living on the margins, using a
9 minimum wage worker as the example. Ms. Torres also referenced the NIPSCO
10 universal service program ("USP") for gas customers, which was authorized by
11 the Commission in Cause No. 43669. She mentioned how the NIPSCO USP
12 program helps low-income customers.¹²

13 **Q. Did individuals from agencies or organizations that provide poor relief or**
14 **assistance to low-income households testify at the Ft. Wayne field hearing?**

15 **A.** Yes, several provided testimony under oath. Ahnee Conner, a customer of I&M
16 and a board member for a non-profit which serves the homeless community,
17 testified. She stated that paying the electricity bill is not only a struggle for the
18 homeless transitioning back into housing, but also represents a burden on the
19 budget of the non-profit assisting in that transition.¹³ She testified, "This all comes
20 out of the budget for our non-profit, and that's very expensive. I mean, we just --

⁹ Attachment KLO-2, pages A-45 – A-47.

¹⁰ Attachment KLO-4.

¹¹ <http://stonesoupcommunity.org/>

¹² Attachment KLO-2, pages A-87 – A-90.

¹³ Attachment KLO-6, pages B-24 – B-26.

1 we -- not only can they not afford it, but our non-profit can't afford another rate
2 increase.”¹⁴

3 Cindy Mahler, Payee Director at the Wayne Township Trustee Office,
4 testified. She represents 100 clients, all of whom are disabled. She discussed that
5 her clients struggle to get by, with the majority living below the poverty line and
6 unable to afford a rate increase. She also stated that 100% of the funding for her
7 office comes from the homeowners in Wayne Township and that they would
8 effectively be hit twice with this increase as they are supporting her clients.¹⁵

9 Jane Porter Gresham spoke on behalf of her congregation. She provided a
10 projection from the Treasurer of her congregation, who ran the numbers on the
11 rate increase and found that the annual bill of the church would increase from
12 \$17,200 to \$21,500. She said that the church serves the community in several
13 ways such as providing a community meal on Wednesday nights and providing
14 food vouchers, which allow struggling households to use their money on other
15 needs like utility bills. She expressed concerns that the congregation may not be
16 able to continue to offer the food vouchers because of this rate increase and noted
17 how it would put a strain on other agencies in the community.¹⁶

18 Roger Reece of Associated Churches¹⁷ testified. Associated Churches is a
19 group of 140 churches which collectively has twenty-six food pantries and
20 twenty-five urban child care facilities. Mr. Reece also noted how Associated
21 Churches provides military hardship relief and an incentive program for young

¹⁴ *Id.*, page B-25, lines 14-17.

¹⁵ *Id.*, pages B-42 – B-44.

¹⁶ *Id.*, pages B-86 – B-87.

¹⁷ <https://www.associatedchurches.org>

1 mothers and families called A Baby's Closet. He discussed how electric bills are a
 2 leading reason why soldiers call for help. He recounted a story about a young
 3 mother who could not feed her children because she had just paid all her bills.¹⁸
 4 He finished with, "So I sincerely request that you, please, be strong and represent
 5 that mom who is doing the best she can."¹⁹

6 **Q. Did individuals from agencies or organizations that provide poor relief or**
 7 **assistance to low-income households testify at the Muncie field hearing?**

8 **A.** Yes, several provided testimony under oath. Holly Hanauer, a volunteer at The
 9 Soup Kitchen of Muncie²⁰ and a former volunteer at Home Savers,²¹ expressed
 10 concerns for her neighbors as a member of a community with a high poverty rate.
 11 She mentioned the tough situations that the clients of the soup kitchen find
 12 themselves in every week. She stated, "Their daily choices go far beyond just
 13 turning the lights off as they leave a room. They're trying to figure out whether to
 14 pay a utility bill or eat that day, whether to see a doctor or buy that medication or
 15 maybe just let an illness go untreated with complicated consequences."²²

16 Debbie Huston, a school teacher who opened a food pantry and clothing
 17 bank at Southside Middle School in Muncie, testified how 85% of the students are
 18 on free and reduced lunch. She added, "When I started the program, I started with
 19 four children on the program. Now I have over -- I have 200 children on the

¹⁸ *Id.*, pages B-88 – B-91.

¹⁹ *Id.*, page 90, lines 22-24.

²⁰ <https://soupkitchenofmuncie.org/>

²¹ <https://homesaversdelco.weebly.com/>

²² Attachment KLO-8, page C-15, lines 13-18.

1 backpack program with 30 on a waiting list, so that means each Friday, those kids
2 are waiting to get food so they can have something to eat when they go home.”²³

3 And Marilyn Walker, Center Township Trustee for the City of Muncie,
4 testified how the clients she serves are struggling and are in need. She stated,
5 “Our services are going up as well with property tax caps and everything that’s
6 going on, you know, budgets being cut and so forth. We’re seeing working people
7 working two minimum wage jobs that can’t get by; they can’t provide for their
8 self. We see those individuals that are making the choices whether to get that
9 medicine or pay that light bill or to get groceries.”²⁴

10 **Q. Is there any other testimony that should be highlighted for the Commission?**

11 **A.** I would encourage everyone who was unable to attend one or more of the field
12 hearings to review the attached transcripts, especially those individuals at the
13 Commission working on this complicated case. On the Commission website, it
14 states:

15 The Commission is a fact-finding body that hears evidence in cases
16 filed before it and makes decisions based on the evidence
17 presented in those cases. An advocate of neither the public nor the
18 utilities, the IURC is required by state statute to make decisions
19 that balance the interests of all parties to ensure the utilities
20 provide adequate and reliable service at reasonable prices.²⁵

21 I present these transcripts from the public field hearings as evidence for the
22 Commission to consider in deciding this case. These were the voices of the
23 ratepaying public. These voices represent a party who has a substantial interest in
24 this case and a party whose interests should be balanced with those of the utility,

²³ *Id.*, page C-26, lines 19-23.

²⁴ *Id.*, page C-89, lines 7-13.

²⁵ <http://www.in.gov/iurc/2451.htm>

1 the large customers, the municipalities, and other intervenors in this proceeding,
2 who all have an interest in achieving a fair and balanced outcome.

3 As a consumer and a low-income advocate, I was moved by the testimony
4 provided by the public. We heard from single parents, homeowners, business
5 owners, teachers, professors, physicians, scientists, social workers, many seniors
6 on fixed incomes, low-income households, elected officials, public servants, and
7 others. We heard of the struggles of seniors who are realizing minute increases in
8 their social security checks, certainly not enough to offset this proposed rate
9 increase -- most notably the increase in the monthly fixed charge. These are the
10 faces and the people who will be disproportionately harmed by the proposed and
11 significant increase in the monthly fixed charge, and who will struggle mightily
12 with any increase at all. Meals will be skipped. Prescriptions will go unfilled.
13 Vulnerable Hoosiers will likely be harmed.

14 I would respectfully ask the Commission to consider these voices as
15 decisions in this proceeding are made. As evidenced by these field hearings, the
16 communities are doing their part to lift people up and improve vulnerable
17 Hoosiers' quality of life through their congregations, social welfare organizations
18 and other initiatives directing them to serve the poor. But large gaps remain, and
19 more help is needed. The Commission is in a critically important position to help
20 address those gaps.

III. CONCLUSION

Q. Is there anything else you would like the Commission to consider regarding I&M’s proposed rate increase?

A. Yes. There is a growing awareness of the struggles of low-income ratepayers and the affordability of utility service in general by decision makers in Indiana.

The General Assembly adopted a policy statement in Senate Enrolled Act 383²⁶ during the 2016 session of the legislature, which was signed into law by then Governor Mike Pence on March 22, 2016. The policy statement specifically read:

The general assembly declares that it is the continuing policy of the state, in cooperation with local governments and other concerned public and private organizations, **to use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance [emphasis added]**, in a manner calculated to create and maintain conditions under which utilities plan for and invest in infrastructure necessary for operation and maintenance **while protecting the affordability of utility services for present and future generations of Indiana citizens. [emphasis added]**

This language clearly states the legislature’s desire that utility service be affordable now and into the future, and that “all practicable means and measures” be used to achieve that, including “financial...assistance”. I would add that, as evidenced by the compelling testimony at the field hearings, both public and private organizations are doing all that they can to help in this worthy goal.

The General Assembly continued this conversation in the 2017 session of the legislature with the inclusion of language in both Senate Enrolled Act 416²⁷

²⁶ <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2016/bills/senate/383>

²⁷ <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/bills/senate/416>

1 and House Enrolled Act 1519²⁸ which both authorize low-income assistance
 2 programs for water and wastewater utility services. While I am not a lawyer, I
 3 believe Senate Enrolled Act 383 provides policy support necessary for the
 4 Commission to approve low-income assistance programs. I acknowledge that this
 5 statute is limited to water and wastewater utilities voluntarily offering customer
 6 assistance programs, but the language nonetheless continued the conversation on
 7 affordability and indicates the legislature’s desire that low-income ratepayers
 8 have access to essential human services.

9 Additionally, despite the fact that the Indiana Court of Appeals affirmed
 10 the NIPSCO general rate increase, the Court²⁹ displayed sympathy for low-
 11 income customers in its opinion, when it wrote, “It is extremely regrettable that
 12 the result of this process is a rate design including rate increases with no
 13 assistance available for low-income consumers.” We now have the judiciary
 14 weighing in at a policy level with respect to low-income customers.

15 Lastly, in his partial dissent in Commission Cause No. 44478,
 16 Commissioner Ziegner expressed sympathy for low-income customers when he
 17 agreed with my recommendation that fixed- and low-income households should
 18 be allowed to opt-out of charges related to the BlueIndy electric vehicle program.
 19 Specifically, he wrote:

20 I also share Mr. Olson’s concerns, and those of many members of
 21 the public who submitted oral and written comments, that the costs
 22 of this project should not create an added burden to those
 23 ratepayers of moderate means and low or fixed incomes, many of

²⁸ <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2017/bills/house/1519>

²⁹ *Citizens Action Coal. of Indiana, Inc. v. N. Indiana Pub. Serv. Co.*, 76 N.E.3d 144, 157 (Ind. Ct. App. 2017).

whom testified that they are unlikely to utilize the Blue Indy car sharing program. As a result, I would adopt Mr. Olson's proposal that households living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level should be allowed to opt out of the tariff established under the ARP.³⁰

Q. What are your recommendations?

A. While I fully support Mr. Wallach's recommendation that the Commission reject the proposed increase to the monthly fixed charge, I recommend that should the Commission decide to approve an increase to the monthly fixed charge for residential customers, that the Commission keep the charge at its current level for customers who receive energy assistance.

I fully support Mr. Howat's recommendation that the Commission order the Company to create a low-income assistance program. In the alternative, should the Commission reject Mr. Howat's proposal, I recommend the Commission promptly begin an investigation into the issue of affordability for low-income electric ratepayers with all jurisdictional electric utilities as respondents and begin a series of technical conferences similar to the ones held which ultimately led to the creation of the universal service programs for the major gas utilities.

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes.

³⁰ *Indianapolis Power & Light Co.*, Cause No. 44478, Final Order at 23 (IURC Feb. 11, 2015).

VERIFICATION

I, Kerwin L. Olson, affirm under penalties of perjury that the foregoing representations are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.



Kerwin L. Olson

November 7, 2017

Date

ATTACHMENT KLO-1

STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PETITION OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER)
COMPANY, AN INDIANA CORPORATION,)
FOR (1) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS)
RATES AND CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC)
UTILITY SERVICE THROUGH A PHASE-IN)
RATE ADJUSTMENT; (2) APPROVAL OF)
REVISED DEPRECIATION RATES,)
ACCOUNTING RELIEF, INCLUSION IN)
BASIC RATES AND CHARGES OF)
QUALIFIED POLLUTION CONTROL)
PROPERTY, CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS,)
AND COST OF BRINGING I&M'S SYSTEM) CAUSE NO.
TO ITS PRESENT STATE OF) 44967
EFFICIENCY, RATE ADJUSTMENT)
MECHANISM PROPOSALS, COST)
DEFERRALS, MAJOR STORM DAMAGE)
RESTORATION RESERVE AND)
DISTRIBUTION VEGETATION MANAGEMENT)
PROGRAM RESERVE, AND)
AMORTIZATIONS; AND (3) FOR)
APPROVAL OF NEW SCHEDULES OF)
RATES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS)

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC FIELD HEARING

Public Field Hearing held on October 2, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. (EDT)
at the South Bend Century Center Recital Hall, 120 Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr. Drive, South Bend, Indiana before Commissioner
James F. Huston, Commissioner David E. Ziegner, and
Administrative Law Judge David E. Veleta (Presiding)

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ATTACHMENT KLO-2

1 South Bend, Indiana
2 October 2, 2017
3 6:00 P.M. (EDT)
4

5 JUDGE DAVID E. VELETA (THE COURT): This is a
6 Public Field Hearing before the Indiana Utility Regulatory
7 Commission in a cause docketed before the Commission as
8 Cause No. 44967 in a cause captioned as "Petition of
9 Indiana Michigan Power Company, an Indiana corporation, for
10 (1) authority to increase its rates and charges for
11 electric utility service through a phase-in rate
12 adjustment; (2) approval of revised depreciation rates,
13 accounting relief, inclusion in basic rates and charges of
14 qualified pollution control property, clean energy
15 projects, and cost of bringing I&M's system to its present
16 state of efficiency, rate adjustment mechanism proposals,
17 cost deferrals, major storm damage restoration reserve and
18 distribution vegetation management program reserve, and
19 amortizations; and (3) for approval of new schedules of
20 rates, rules, and regulations."

21 Notice of the time and place of the hearing was
22 given as provided by law by publication in Marion County in
23 the Indianapolis Star on September 16, 2017, in Allen
24 County in the Journal Gazette and Times Sentinel on
25 September 16, 2017, and in St. Joseph County in the

1 Mishawaka Enterprise on September 21, 2017 and the Tribune
2 on September 20, 2017.

3 Each of said newspapers is a newspaper of general
4 circulation, printed and published in the English language,
5 and said publications were made at least ten days prior to
6 the date of the Field Hearing.

7 The proofs of publication of the notices have
8 been received by the Commission and are now incorporated
9 into the record of this cause by reference and placed in
10 the official files of the Commission.

11 Notice has also been given to the Indiana Office
12 of Utility Consumer Counselor and other interested parties.

13 May we have appearances, please?

14 MR. RANDALL C. HELMEN: On behalf of the Public,
15 Randall Helmen from the OUCC.

16 MR. JEFFREY M. PEABODY: On behalf of the
17 Petitioner, Jeffrey M. Peabody with the law firm of Barnes
18 & Thornburg, LLP.

19 MS. JENNIFER A. WASHBURN: On behalf of Citizens
20 Action Coalition of Indiana and also on behalf of Indiana
21 Community Action Association, an Indiana coalition for
22 human services whose Petitions are pending before the
23 Court, please accept the appearance of Jennifer Washburn,
24 Indianapolis, Indiana.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Helmen, whenever you're ready.

1 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 As has been described, I'm going to call you up
3 one at a time, I'll ask you to spell your name, and then
4 you'll want to give your comments.

5 Forgive me if I mispronounce your name. I'm not
6 that good at that. So when I call you up here, you will be
7 sworn in first, and then you'll be asked to pronounce and
8 spell your name, and then we'll let you comment.

9 So with that in mind, I'm going to try and call
10 these in the order in which they were turned in, and the
11 first one is -- and here we go already -- Pamela Claeys.
12 Am I close?

13 Pamela Claeys?

14 Let's go to the next person while we're waiting
15 for Pamela, and that would be John Pinter.

16 THE COURT: Mr. Pinter, if you could raise your
17 right hand.

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19 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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1 **JOHN PINTER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
2 having been first duly sworn, testified as
3 follows:

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5 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

6 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

7 Q Would you please state your name and spell your last
8 name for the record?

9 A Yes, John Pinter, and the last name is P-i-n-t-e-r.

10 Q Very good. Thank you. You may --

11 A I'll be very brief.

12 I am from -- I live here in South Bend, and I
13 direct the United Religious Community, the URC, just to
14 confuse you on initials.

15 We are an interfaith organization that among the
16 things we do is provide assistance to low income people
17 with emergencies such as rent and utilities and things like
18 that.

19 The hurricanes have certainly reminded us of the
20 importance of having a strong electrical power grid and the
21 importance of electricity in our lives, and that's true for
22 people if the disaster that's happening to them is that
23 they're being cut off from their electricity.

24 So my comments aren't meant to be particularly
25 pro- or anti- anything but rather to give you a little bit

1 of information as to what could -- some of the effects that
2 are already happening to people in this area.

3 I asked our person who does our books to run for
4 us all of the relief that we had provided over the last few
5 years and discovered we paid over 83,000 in utility bills
6 to Indiana Michigan Power. Just -- the average is about
7 \$100 or so per family that we were able to help, and that's
8 limited mostly by the money that we have to give out as
9 well as other agencies that are going to be assisting with
10 that.

11 It's the largest part of our -- or it has been
12 the largest part of our relief budget over the last few
13 years, meaning that donations and grants and pass-throughs
14 that we get from the government are actually already going
15 to try to assist people who are really at the margin.

16 Our relief monies are down. I know the needs
17 continue based on the people that we see on a day-to-day
18 basis and other agencies that we talk to. Our population
19 is disproportionately people of color, single parent headed
20 households, and people with disabilities, and any kind of
21 increase that happens for whatever good that may come of
22 that as well is going to be particularly hard on those
23 folks.

24 So we ask you to keep that in consideration as
25 you deliberate, keep the lowest of income people in your

1 hearts and minds.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Mr. Pinter.

4 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Pinter.

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(WITNESS JOHN PINTER EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: We next call Pamela Claeys.

2 THE COURT: Ms. Claeys, if you could raise your
3 right hand.

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5 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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7 **PAMELA CLAEYS**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
8 having been first duly sworn, testified as
9 follows:

10

11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

12 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

13 Q I'm going to ask you to please state your name and
14 spell your last name for the record.

15 A Pamela Claeys, C-l-a-e-y-s.

16 Q And please go ahead.

17 A I live here in South Bend. I'm a consumer of I&M. I
18 appreciate that you're coming to South Bend to hear the
19 testimony of ratepayers. Thank you, and welcome to South
20 Bend; we're happy to have you.

21 I just got my electric bill in the mail today,
22 and there was the little \$7.83, and I thought, oh my
23 goodness, if it goes to 21 or 18 or whatever it is, that's
24 going to be almost \$300 a year.

25 Many of us are on fixed incomes. I'm now on

1 social security, and this rate hike is on the backs of
2 lower income people. They're the ones who are going to be
3 hurt the most; not they, we.

4 I would encourage you to look at some kind of
5 surcharge for people that are higher users. If you're
6 going to have a bigger house, pay more; don't put it on the
7 backs of poor people.

8 I also -- I know I&M uses different pots of
9 money, but I'm sure some of my money went to lobby against
10 the solar power bill in the Indiana Statehouse. I fought
11 against that. I am for solar power. I don't want my tax
12 money, my rate money, used for anything like that.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Ms. Claeys.

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25 (WITNESS PAMELA CLAEYS EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next speaker is Casey Mullaney.

2 THE COURT: If you could raise your right hand.

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4 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

5

6 **CASEY MULLANEY**, a witness appearing on behalf of the

7 Public, having been first duly sworn,

8 testified as follows:

9

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

12 Q Would you please state your name and spell your last
13 name for the record?

14 A My name is Casey Mullaney, M-u-l-l-a-n-e-y.

15 Q Please go ahead.

16 A I'm a member of the St. Peter Claver Catholic Worker
17 community, just a couple blocks away over in Monroe Park.

18 Monroe Park is one of the poorest neighborhoods
19 in the city. Many of our neighbors fall below the state
20 and federal poverty line.

21 I'm here because I'm concerned about the fixed
22 rate increase. The extra \$10.00 per month that has been
23 proposed is out of reach for many of our neighbors who
24 budget down to the last nickel every month.

25 I worry about this because so many of the people

1 that we live with and serve and share a life with are young
2 families and elderly people, and I'm concerned about what
3 the loss of power would do to families like my neighbors
4 and like my own community in the winter months as our
5 electricity bills are rising.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. HELMEN: Thank you.

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(WITNESS CASEY MULLANEY EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Mr. John McLean.

2 THE COURT: If you could raise your right hand to
3 be sworn.

4

5 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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7 **JOHN McLEAN**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
8 having been first duly sworn, testified as
9 follows:

10

11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

12 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

13 Q Would you please state your name and spell your last
14 name for the record?

15 A My name is John McLean, M-c-L-e-a-n.

16 Q Thank you. You may go ahead.

17 A I'm a member of the Peter Claver Catholic Worker
18 community. I live in Monroe Park, one of the poorest
19 neighborhoods. Many of my neighbors are -- they fall well
20 below the federal and state poverty lines.

21 I'm concerned especially about the fixed fee
22 increase which disproportionately affects the most
23 vulnerable members of our society and will mean that they
24 will be unable to make ends meet and continue to pay their
25 electric bill, and this will drive them further into

1 poverty, and I'm concerned about the rate increase just in
2 general, again, because it will disproportionately affect
3 the poorest members of our society who we ought to be
4 helping instead of hurting further.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Mr. McLean.

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(WITNESS JOHN McLEAN EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next up we have Carmella Vizza.

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3 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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5 **CARMELLA VIZZA**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
6 Public, having been first duly sworn,
7 testified as follows:

8

9 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

10 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

11 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
12 the record.

13 A It's Carmella Vizza, and last name is spelled
14 V-i-z-z-a, and my first name is C-a-r-m-e-l-l-a.

15 Q Thank you, and do you have something you want to say?

16 A Yes, please. Thank you. Thank you for being here as
17 well.

18 Power utilities including our very own AEP and
19 its subsidiary I&M are monopoly providers of a whole bundle
20 of electricity services in a given geographic area,
21 specifically here. The benefit of such a monopoly is
22 reliability, and our current regulatory structure made more
23 sense in the 20th century.

24 However, in the 21st century, the benefits of
25 competition now exceed the benefits of this reliability.

1 It is time for I&M and our Indiana regulators to embrace
2 these changing times. Unfortunately, I&M has consistently
3 made business decisions that fail to reimagine itself for
4 the 21st century. I&M has been continually sinking money
5 into its Rockport coal plant instead of investing in
6 cleaner and cheaper renewable energy sources.

7 In fact, I&M actively lobbied for SB 309, a bill
8 that made it less profitable for consumers to install their
9 own solar panels, and they spent over \$200,000 in this
10 process. I&M even wants consumers to pay off
11 technologically obsolete meters they installed five years
12 ago, which should have lasted for at least 15 years, so
13 they can install newer smart meters.

14 What I see is a pattern of bad decision after bad
15 decision, and I&M is asking us to pay for it. This rate
16 increase will disproportionately affect lower and fixed
17 income households which will further exacerbate issues of
18 income and equality.

19 Additionally, the more than doubling of the
20 monthly fixed charged from 7.30 to \$18 punishes people
21 trying to conserve energy including those who use renewable
22 sources like solar.

23 As the entire world faces the very real
24 consequences of climate change, we are seeing an increase
25 in the severity and frequency of both droughts and storms

1 like the many recent hurricanes that have hit the gulf
2 coast and Puerto Rico. These trends will only get worse if
3 we continue business as usual. We should be incentivizing
4 people to use less power, not punishing them.

5 We need to reimagine Indiana electric utilities
6 for the 21st century, similar to New York reforming the
7 energy vision plan. What we don't need is I&M being
8 hostile to rooftop solar and energy efficiency while
9 bailing out old coal plants. We cannot reward I&M for
10 sticking its head in the sand and refusing to innovate.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Ms. Vizza.

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(WITNESS CARMELLA VIZZA EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call up Joshua Holston.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Holston, if you could raise your
3 right hand.

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5 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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7 **JOSHUA C. HOLSTON**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
8 Public, having been first duly sworn,
9 testified as follows:

10

11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

12 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

13 Q Would you please state your name and spell your last
14 name for the record?

15 A My name is Joshua Holston; last name is spelled
16 H-o-l-s-t-o-n.

17 Q You may go ahead.

18 A Thank you.

19 I am a public school teacher; my wife is a public
20 school teacher. Both of us are full-time students working
21 towards further education. We can probably afford the rate
22 hike, but that's not why I'm here.

23 We have four children, two in college, one in
24 high school, one in middle school. We, including our
25 children, are active in a number of community improvement

1 groups and give readily to various charities. We are
2 contributing members of the community, but teacher salaries
3 are often not enough. Most months, we are struggling to
4 get by paycheck to paycheck.

5 To give you a picture of how that works with four
6 people in the house and two people sometimes visiting,
7 working towards furthering themselves and bettering their
8 community at all hours of the day and night, as much as we
9 struggle and as much as we strive, as diligently as we try
10 not to use too much electricity, too much gas, and things
11 like that, over the last 12 months, we've paid AEP and I&M
12 \$1,381.

13 The proposed increase would drive our 12-month
14 bill up to \$1,836. We already give AEP over \$28 a month
15 for their bad business practices, \$342 a year; that's \$21
16 more than my house payment that I have to use to bail out
17 AEP.

18 \$75,000 a year combined income, the increase
19 itself is nearly 1 percent of our income. Can we afford
20 it? Probably; we can probably figure it out. Should we
21 have to? Absolutely not.

22 Now imagine that my wife and I don't work full
23 time and make that much money. Imagine that we are among
24 the 45 percent of people in South Bend who are struggling
25 just to get by and have to choose between prescriptions and

1 eating, or imagine that we're among the 15 percent of
2 people who don't get to make that choice because they are
3 so far below the poverty line that they don't get to eat.

4 This rate hike is unfair; it's a bailout of bad
5 business practices, and I urge you to not allow it to go
6 forward.

7 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Mr. Holston.

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(WITNESS JOSHUA C. HOLSTON EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call up Kelly Beduhn.

2 THE COURT: If you could raise your right hand to
3 be sworn.

4

5 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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7 **KELLY BEDUHN**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
8 having been first duly sworn, testified as
9 follows:

10

11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

12 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

13 Q I do apologize for mispronouncing your name.

14 A I get it all the time.

15 Q Could you please state your name and spell your last
16 name for the record?

17 A I'm Kelly Beduhn, it's B-e-d-u-h-n.

18 Q Thank you. You may go ahead.

19 A I&M is asking for a \$263 million increase in revenue.
20 They say it's needed for maintenance and for building the
21 future. My question to I&M is this: Why should I and my
22 fellow citizens be burdened with the expense of operating
23 your power company? I do not own a power company. I have
24 no say in how I&M operates. I'm not offered any choice in
25 how my electricity is generated or distributed.

1 I&M is not a co-op or a municipally-controlled
2 power company. If it were, then there would be a
3 democratic process for customers like myself to participate
4 in the business and operating decisions. I&M is in the
5 business of generating and distributing power for a profit.
6 As such, it is their obligation to bear the burden of their
7 own operating expenses. South Bend is striving to achieve
8 targets in renewable energy and reduced carbon footprint,
9 but we are hindered by the grip of this monopoly utility
10 company that continues to choose expensive, dirty coal
11 combustion to generate power.

12 Now they are asking us to pay off their five-year
13 old meters. I&M should pay the depreciation for its own
14 meter upgrade. Why didn't they go with smart meters five
15 years ago? I have no idea because I'm not a stakeholder in
16 I&M; I'm just a customer, and I have no say in those
17 decisions. So why has I&M decided to upgrade to smart
18 meters now before the current five-year old meters are even
19 paid for? Again, I have no way of knowing because as a
20 customer, I am not privy to or invited to participate in
21 these costly decisions, and yet I am being asked to pay for
22 them.

23 It's easy enough for I&M to make expensive
24 investments and then change their minds before it's even
25 paid for when it is us and not them that are being asked to

1 pay for it. I say to I&M that if you cannot afford the
2 cost of maintenance and upkeep of the power grid, then you
3 shouldn't be in the electricity business. If you want us,
4 the customers, to pay your operating expenses, then we
5 should be the ones operating the business. I would much
6 rather have electricity from a co-op or a municipally-run
7 power company than to be at the mercy of a super polluter
8 corporation that prioritizes corporate profits over the
9 environment and over the physical and financial health of
10 its most vulnerable customers.

11 I&M in its Building the Future web page says that
12 this rate increase is needed in part to adjust the
13 depreciation of Unit 1 of its Rockport plant to prepare for
14 its eventual retirement. They are asking us to pay off
15 their super polluter without giving us any assurance of
16 when they will actually retire this costly and dangerous
17 coal plant.

18 I&M cannot be relied upon to follow through with
19 generalities and vague assurances. Their next integrated
20 resource plan is not due until 2018. I'm asking the IURC
21 to reject I&M's request for a rate increase until after
22 they have submitted an approved IRP that includes definite
23 commitments to phase out coal combustion in Indiana.

24 Thank you.

25 (WITNESS KELLY BEDUHN EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Mr. Steve Francis?

2 THE COURT: Mr. Francis, if you could raise your
3 right hand.

4

5 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

6

7 **STEVE FRANCIS**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
8 having been first duly sworn, testified as
9 follows:

10

11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

12 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

13 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
14 the record.

15 A Steve Francis, F-r-a-n-c-i-s.

16 Q Thank you. Please go ahead.

17 A I'm speaking here as a customer of I&M. I live in
18 South Bend, Indiana. As an aside, I'm also a consultant in
19 my own firm, Sustainable Energy and Economic Development,
20 with a background in economics.

21 First, I would like to say thank you for coming;
22 it's a long drive. I know; I drive that down to
23 Indianapolis very often, so I appreciate that -- taking the
24 time to come up here.

25 I think looking at the fixed charge and the rate

1 increase separately, first, on the fixed charge, it's a
2 whopping 147 percent above what the current charge is of
3 \$7.30 to \$18, and I just want to say that one thing that I
4 find in talking to customers and clients is that one of the
5 things that drive their investments in energy efficiency
6 and potentially solar power on their roofs is that they can
7 save money; they can lower their bills, but when you have a
8 fixed charge of \$18, I think that before you even consume
9 one watt of electricity, the amount of investment you put
10 into your home or business that lowers your energy use is
11 completely -- is eaten up, at least in part, by that
12 increase in the fixed charge, so I would ask the IURC and
13 the OUCC to very closely look at the justification for
14 increasing that and the impact it will have upon energy
15 efficiency efforts by businesses and individuals to invest
16 in energy efficiency.

17 For example, just on my home alone, I've spent
18 several thousand dollars of my own money to invest in LED
19 lighting, CFL lighting, insulation, energy efficient
20 appliances, energy efficient air conditioning and furnaces,
21 and I was able to do that. In the process, I lowered my
22 bill by 25 percent; did that on my own, but with my own
23 investment resources hoping to recoup that in lower bills
24 in the future. What this will do -- both the fixed charge
25 and the increase in rates will completely erase the

1 benefits from that investment.

2 So I feel that a lot of customers will say to
3 heck with it; we just keep going backwards, and when we try
4 to make improvements to our homes and businesses and make
5 them more energy efficient, use less coal-fired power and
6 less power overall, we get beaten back by increases in
7 fixed charges. I predict that this will not be the only
8 increase in the fixed charge because you're seeing it at
9 every investor-owned utility around the state. This will
10 be the highest, but they're leapfrogging each other. In
11 fact, in testimony last year by NIPSCO, they said they
12 could justify raising the fixed charge to over \$80 per
13 month, so more is coming, folks. This is just the
14 beginning.

15 Secondly, I intend to invest in solar. I was
16 very dismayed by the actions of my utility possibly using
17 money that they gained through our rates, although they're
18 supposed to not use it for lobbying down in Indianapolis,
19 to do an end run around the IURC and phase out net
20 metering. The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission had a
21 very good revision, an excellent, outstanding revision in
22 the net metering rule about six years ago, and what
23 happened at the State Legislature was a complete end run
24 around the independent regulatory process to do away with
25 net metering which allowed people to install rooftop solar

1 at their own expense and then benefit from the -- from that
2 investment by getting a credit on their bill when they
3 didn't use that power and they sent it down the line to
4 their neighbors.

5 So that combined with the possible rates coming
6 down the pike in terms of the Rockport coal plant, a
7 hidden -- a hidden -- a very hidden but public assessment
8 of that is shown at your own IURC and in court proceedings
9 that, in fact, there may be billions of dollars required at
10 that coal plant and not just the minor amount that's in
11 this particular pollution control in this proceeding that
12 leads to that -- part of that 19.7 percent increase.
13 That's billions of dollars coming in the future, and not
14 one pound or ton of CO2 is even calculated in that. This
15 is money that will be required in those plants in order to
16 reduce their sulfur dioxide to comply with the Clean Air
17 Act.

18 So we've got more coming, folks. This is just
19 the beginning. I think that -- I ask you as an independent
20 regulatory agency and as our consumer advocate to take a
21 very careful look at and reduce this exorbitant increase
22 that will add \$30 or more depending upon how you calculate
23 the average consumer per month to their bills.

24 I urge you to stand up for consumers, exercise
25 the independence that you are allowed in state law and to

1 not approve this in its entirety.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Mr. Francis.

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

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25 (WITNESS STEVE FRANCIS EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we have Mr. Nate
2 Levin-Aspenson.

3 THE COURT: If you could raise your right hand.

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5 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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7 **NATHAN LEVIN-ASPENSON**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
8 Public, having been first duly
9 sworn, testified as follows:

10

11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

12 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

13 Q Would you please state your last name and spell it for
14 the record?

15 A Nathan Levin-Aspenson. It's spelled
16 L-e-v-i-n-A-s-p-e-n-s-o-n.

17 Q Thank you. You may go ahead.

18 A Many of my fellow commenters have said and will
19 continue to say that this rate hike will be borne on the
20 backs of our lowest income citizens, and I believe
21 wholeheartedly that that is the important thing to take out
22 of this hearing today, but I also want to note that this is
23 a very egregious example of public risk for private reward.

24 Five years ago, they had the opportunity, AEP, to
25 invest in smart meters at a time when the industry was

1 moving towards smart meters. During a time when coal power
2 has become -- in addition to being ecologically devastating
3 has become less economically viable, they have doubled down
4 on coal power plants at the expense of our air quality here
5 in northern Indiana, and now they're coming to the IURC
6 with a rate hike that will bear the cost of these business
7 mistakes on our lowest income citizens, and, if approved,
8 will create a disincentive to ever make prudent
9 investments, to ever do their business correctly, to
10 diversify power sources and invest in renewables or improve
11 the quality of services or air for their customers and your
12 constituents.

13 So not only is this proposal unfair, not only is
14 it unjust, passing it would provide a free pass, a
15 disincentive to ever do things correctly, to ever run the
16 business the way it should be run responsibly and with your
17 constituents in mind.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, sir.

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25 (WITNESS NATHAN LEVIN-ASPENSON EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next, Mr. Connor Gadson?

2 THE COURT: If you could raise your right hand.

3

4 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

5

6 **CONNOR GADSON**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

7 having been first duly sworn, testified as

8 follows:

9

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

12 Q Please state your name and spell it for the record.

13 A My name is Connor Gadson. My last name is

14 G-a-d-s-o-n.

15 Q Thank you, sir. You may go ahead.

16 A First, I would like to thank everyone who has spoken

17 before me because they've all done a really good job of

18 putting things into words that we all should care about.

19 So I didn't come here with any really long,

20 prepared speech, so it's going to be pretty short, but in

21 the five minutes that I was sitting here before this

22 started, I looked at their website, and according to a fact

23 sheet that they put out in 2015, less than 10 percent of

24 their energy comes from renewable resources, and just by

25 looking at their long-term plans on their website, it's

1 extremely vague to see how much they're going to be
2 investing in renewable energy in the future. That is
3 incredibly important to a lot of us in here.

4 If anyone here cares about climate change, we
5 have to know and trust that they're going to make
6 investments that matter to us, and I think you guys should
7 demand to see what kind of investments they're going to
8 make. I think you should demand to see their goals for
9 when that 10 percent is going to be 20 percent, when it's
10 going to be 25 percent, because those are things we care
11 about and need to know.

12 So if you're going to agree to a rate hike, we
13 have to know where that money is going, and it better
14 better us and not them.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. HELMEN: Thank you.

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25 (WITNESS CONNOR GADSON EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Mr. Ed Johnson.

2 Thank you for being named Johnson.

3 THE COURT: Mr. Johnson, if you could raise your
4 right hand.

5

6 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

7

8 **ED JOHNSON**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

9 having been first duly sworn, testified as

10 follows:

11

12 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

13 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

14 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
15 the record.

16 A Ed Johnson, the last name J-o-h-n-s-o-n.

17 Q Please go ahead.

18 A Okay. I won't take up a lot of your time this
19 evening. I do thank you for hearing us.

20 There are a lot of people here giving you very
21 precise information regarding this rate hike. A couple
22 simple comments from a 71-year old retiree.

23 In the last six years since I&M said they haven't
24 raised our rates, my electric bill -- and I looked it up,
25 and I use approximately the same amount of electricity. My

1 electric bill has gone up by 50-some percent in those six
2 years.

3 I will remind this panel that my social security
4 has gone up 4 percent in that same period of time which
5 somewhere this is not leveling out. We are all paying for
6 it dearly. We have no choice; there's no competition in
7 this, and we are at the mercy of I&M. We can only plead
8 our case to you and hope you will find an equitable way to
9 reach a decision.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

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(WITNESS ED JOHNSON EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Mr. Thomas Tyks.

2 THE COURT: If you could raise your right hand.

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4 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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6 **THOMAS TYKS**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

7 having been first duly sworn, testified as

8 follows:

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10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

12 Q Place state your name and spell your last name for the
13 record.

14 A My name is Thomas Tyks, T-y-k-s, and I am a resident
15 of South Bend, Indiana.

16 First of all, I would like to thank you all for
17 coming here. It's been a drive, like the one gentleman
18 said, all the way up from Indianapolis; the weather has
19 been great for you, and speaking of the weather, I think
20 it's amazing the technology that's gone on so far, wind
21 turbines, you know, solar cells, and any way we can drop
22 our utility bills and our rates and everything has just
23 been absolutely amazing, but I have a little bit of a
24 problem with it when I read some of the things that's going
25 to happen, that my electric is going to go up 130-some

1 percent somebody said, something like that. Why? Because
2 somebody put in some meters that were supposed to last 15
3 years, and they've only lasted five years. Really? And
4 now you want to bail -- we want to -- you want us to bail
5 you out because of a bad decision. I don't think that's
6 fair.

7 I'm on social security; many of us here are on
8 social security, fixed incomes, and we can't afford it, but
9 what I would like to do is I don't like to gripe about
10 something unless I have a solution. I'm a firm believer in
11 that, and so I'm here to gripe about the rate increase.

12 So my solution is: Why don't we have more wind
13 power, more solar energy, more things to reduce our costs
14 rather than having to rely on antiquated fossil fuel? I
15 don't think it's fair to the people; I don't think it's
16 fair to the technology that we have strived for so much in
17 our country. I think there's a better way to handle this,
18 and I know that if I was having to pay salaries -- oh, wait
19 a minute. Aren't we paying taxes and energy fees and
20 things like that? Yeah, we are. I would fire people. I
21 would get rid of people that are not making that bottom
22 line more attainable.

23 Think about it; the realities of life are simple.
24 Let's do the right thing. Let's not do this tax increase;
25 let's not do this rate increase. It isn't fair, not to

1 these people here, not to anyone.

2 Another solution, grandfather. The people that
3 already have the old meters, they get to stay with them for
4 15 years. When you have new housing, put the new meters in
5 the new housing. When you have these new developments and
6 new businesses, put them in those, and then after 15 years,
7 let's grandfather those out and put the new meters in, but
8 don't expect us to bail you out because of your bad
9 business decisions.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Mr. Tyks.

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(WITNESS THOMAS TYKS EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Kathy Liggett.

2 THE COURT: Would you raise your right hand,
3 please?

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5 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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7 **KATHY LIGGETT**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
8 having been first duly sworn, testified as
9 follows:

10

11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

12 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

13 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
14 the record.

15 A Kathy Liggett, L-i-g-g-e-t-t.

16 Q You may go ahead.

17 A Thank you. What does a mere \$29.74 monthly bill
18 increase mean to a senior on a fixed budget? It doesn't
19 sound like much, but let me share with you what it robs
20 from a monthly food budget for my husband and me. These
21 are real prices.

22 Monthly, three dozen eggs at 98 cents a dozen,
23 \$2.94, two 16 ounce jars of peanut butter at \$2.50 each for
24 \$5.00, four loaves of bread at the discount store, 89 cents
25 each for a total of \$3.56, 2 gallons of milk, \$2.18 per

1 gallon, three 24-ounce cottage cheese low fat, \$2.62 per
2 carton, four cans of chicken soup, grand total \$28.72.
3 These are my monthly allotments for each one of these
4 categories. I looked them up; these are the current
5 prices.

6 So for seniors on a fixed income, this is a huge
7 increase.

8 Thank you so much for letting me share that.

9 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Ms. Liggett.

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(WITNESS KATHY LIGGETT EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we have Mr. Reynaldo Hernandez.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Hernandez, if you could raise
3 your right hand.

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5 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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7 **REYNALDO HERNANDEZ**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
8 Public, having been first duly sworn,
9 testified as follows:

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11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

12 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

13 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
14 the record.

15 A My name is Reynaldo Hernandez, last name
16 H-e-r-n-a-n-d-e-z.

17 Q Thank you. You may go ahead.

18 A I live here in South Bend, and I wish to comment
19 against the proposed electric rate increase. I speak also
20 on behalf of my wife, GlendaRae Hernandez, who is here
21 tonight.

22 As a resident of a low income neighborhood, I
23 believe I also speak for many of my neighbors, homeowners,
24 renters, and landowners who may include the electric
25 payment in the rent.

1 This proposed increase is going to hit hard on
2 seniors and others on low fixed incomes such as myself.
3 \$25 to \$30 a month may not mean much to an I&M executive.
4 It probably wouldn't mean that much to my daughter and my
5 son-in-law who live in Indianapolis pulling down very nice
6 salaries as professional pharmacists, but let me tell you,
7 it is a big deal to me; it is a big deal to low fixed
8 income people.

9 Yes, the cost of everything is going up, and
10 according to this morning's paper, rates have only
11 increased 3 percent over the last ten years, and that's
12 adjusted for inflation, but this proposed increase well
13 exceeds that past rate increase. If there is any rate
14 increase at all, it should either be adjusted for low
15 income people or otherwise reduced to ease the impact for
16 all. Such provisions are made for real estate taxes, and
17 they should be made for electric rates as well.

18 The increase would be more tolerable if I&M were
19 acting more assertively to convert from reliance on coal to
20 wind and solar. Okay, we have a new solar plant going up
21 just west of us here, and that's great, and I've been able
22 to modify my own electric supply so that half of it now
23 comes from solar sources without increasing my rate.

24 The downside is that last year, I&M fought hard
25 against the Clean Power Plan and updated -- that's what

1 they called it; I wouldn't call it that -- the Rockport
2 plant instead of replacing it with solar or similar at even
3 less cost, and don't give me that crap about saving Indiana
4 coal jobs either because Rockport burns out of state coal.
5 I highly resent having to pay more for keeping us
6 imprisoned in the past. The term public utility implies
7 that it exists to serve, not exploit. The proposed rate
8 increase exploits.

9 In sum, I&M needs to be more responsible in
10 respecting both the financial limitations of lower income
11 Hoosiers and an environment badly in need of reducing
12 carbon emissions. In light of both, please reject or limit
13 this increase.

14 Thank you very much.

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(WITNESS REYNALDO HERNANDEZ EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: At this time, if you could silence
2 your cell phones, that would be appreciated.

3 At this time, we're going to talk to Dr. Rachel
4 Rebecca Love.

5 THE COURT: Would you raise your right hand,
6 please?

7

8 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

9

10 **RACHEL REBECCA LOVE**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
11 Public, having been first duly sworn,
12 testified as follows:

13

14 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

15 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

16 Q Would you please state your name and spell it for the
17 record?

18 A My name is Rachel Rebecca Love, L-o-v-e.

19 Q You may go ahead.

20 A First, I would like to thank the Commissioners for
21 holding a Field Hearing in South Bend and spare us from
22 having to travel to Fort Wayne or Muncie.

23 My concerns are as follows: I'm concerned that
24 it's impossible for us to estimate the impact of I&M's
25 request on our budgets because this cause appears to be in

1 direct conflict with another cause that's still currently
2 pending before the Commission. I'm referring to Cause
3 44871. That cause specifies that the clean coal rider
4 should be used to pay for certain pollution controls. This
5 cause zeroes out the clean coal rider and the federal
6 mandate rider. I was unable to read all 6,000 pages of
7 this cause, but I found no explanation or resolution on
8 this conflict.

9 My concern is that depending on how the
10 Commission orders in both cases, the increase could be even
11 more than what I&M has stated, but inexplicable decisions
12 seem to be a hallmark of this request. For example, I&M
13 wants to increase depreciation rates on our meters, as
14 we've heard, to get ready to replace some of them even
15 though a witness stated that some of them were only
16 installed in 2013. Witness Thomas' overview is even more
17 puzzling. He says -- and this is my paraphrase; I'm not
18 quoting -- that I&M's decision to advance the retirement of
19 the Rockport units until the mid-2020s necessitates
20 increasing how much we pay for depreciation so that I&M can
21 recoup its investment.

22 None of this should have been a surprise. The
23 deadline for pollution controls was known since 2007, the
24 expiration of the lease on Rockport 2 was certainly known,
25 and since early 2013, almost five years ago, I&M has known

1 of the need to refuel, repower, retrofit, or retire
2 Rockport 1 by 2026. So it's puzzling that this is
3 apparently something the company is only now considering.

4 This is what it seems has happened: I&M gambled
5 that it could put off installing pollution controls as long
6 as possible under the deadline and still recoup its
7 investment. Well, the natural gas and the wind industry
8 has called that bluff, and now I&M wants Hoosiers to hurry
9 up and pay back its poor speculation in a few years.

10 It's unclear to me whether a company that acted
11 like this could survive in the open market. I understand
12 that I&M is protected from competition and that as a public
13 utility, there are provisions under the law for its
14 profitability; however, at what point does I&M's poor
15 decision making impact its shareholders in addition to just
16 its customers? We are not cash cows for I&M or AEP, and
17 right now, it seems that we are being treated as such.

18 Some of my school teachers used to have a saying
19 on our classroom walls, and that saying was poor planning
20 on your part does not justify an emergency on my part.
21 I&M's poor planning does not necessitate a financial
22 emergency on the part of Hoosier households.

23 We have heard adequate testimony tonight that
24 this large rate case would be such an emergency, so I'm
25 asking the Commission to reject this request in its current

1 form.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Dr. Love.

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

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25 (WITNESS RACHEL REBECCA LOVE EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we have Mr. Paul Williams.

2 THE COURT: Please raise your right hand.

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4 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

5

6 **PAUL A. WILLIAMS**, a witness appearing on behalf of the

7 Public, having been first duly sworn,

8 testified as follows:

9

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

12 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
13 the record.

14 A My name is Paul Williams, W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s.

15 Q Thank you, sir. You may go ahead.

16 A I am a resident of South Bend, and I pay electric
17 bills through I&M and AEP. I also do some side work
18 helping people. There's an organization in South Bend
19 called Help With Love, and they will call me and ask me to
20 go repair somebody's home if they have a problem. Most
21 generally, I will go in and I will do that for free because
22 there are people that really need help.

23 What I&M is proposing here -- I have one client
24 right now that needs a water heater put in. They call a
25 plumber, it's going to cost them \$400 or \$500. I'm going

1 to put it in for free. They are struggling to get \$29.99
2 together for an adapter kit to put this in. Now that's a
3 one-time charge; they're going to have to struggle with \$30
4 a month every month if this goes through.

5 Another thing that I have a problem with is I
6 watch TV; I'm sure everybody here does. How many
7 commercials do you see for AEP? Why are we paying for a PR
8 program? We have no choice but to buy the electricity
9 through them. Take the money out of their PR program and
10 put it in what they need to do with Rockport.

11 If any of us drive down any street, look at the
12 electrical lines. We have seen them deteriorating; we have
13 seen telephone poles -- what we call telephone poles, which
14 are really electrical poles -- that have -- they're bent;
15 they're crushing; they're falling. I see frayed lines up
16 there. This isn't something new; this has been going on
17 for 25 years. This should have been done a long time ago.
18 Updating these things should have been done a long time
19 ago.

20 I got a \$4.00 increase in my social security last
21 year. \$4.00 a month. I can't pay that electrical bill two
22 months with that \$4.00 a month.

23 It is time for the IURC to stand up to I&M and
24 say no, this is not necessary. Get your business in order
25 and then come back and talk to us.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Mr. Williams.

3 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

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25 (WITNESS PAUL A. WILLIAMS EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we have Mr. Bruce Burkart.

2 THE COURT: Please raise your right hand.

3

4 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

5

6 **BRUCE BURKART**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

7 having been first duly sworn, testified as

8 follows:

9

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

12 Q Mr. Burkart, can you please state your last name and
13 spell it for the record?

14 A Yes. Last name is Burkart, B-u-r-k-a-r-t.

15 Q Thank you, sir. You may go ahead.

16 A Okay. First of all, thank you for coming.

17 I live in Clay Township, which is north of town.
18 I've lived there 38 years, and when I moved into my home,
19 it was and it still is 100 percent electric. I have no
20 choice. I have the coil ceiling electric heating, so to
21 me, this is not only outrageous, but it's shocking, the
22 proposal.

23 I also, like many in this room, am on social
24 security, so it's already been discussed that we maybe get
25 a whopping \$2.00 to \$4.00 increase a year or something so

1 minute, it doesn't even begin to cover this type of an
2 increase.

3 I've done everything that I&M has asked for over
4 my 38 years in Swanson Highlands. I have changed my shower
5 heads; I have changed my light bulbs; my home -- each room
6 has its own thermostat so I can control where the heat is,
7 where the heat is shut off; I've done that. I've gone with
8 AWHR to get a water heater that purportedly was going to
9 reduce my overall cost, so I pay a lease fee each and every
10 month, and I have for years. I really haven't seen much of
11 a decrease as was promised me when I signed up.

12 Personally, I see no reason for this increase.
13 My former career was in business, and the people that I
14 worked with, when they had capital expenditure needs, it
15 was budgeted. It wasn't thrown into an operating account;
16 reserves were set up.

17 This, once again, is absurd. I just don't see
18 how they can fathom a 20 percent increase from people that
19 are -- many people are on fixed incomes that are here
20 today, but a 20 percent increase is absurd with the economy
21 being the way it is right now.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Mr. Burkart.

24

25 **(WITNESS BRUCE BURKART EXCUSED)**

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Pat Wisniewski.

2 THE COURT: Will you please raise your right hand
3 to be sworn?

4

5 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

6

7 **PAT WISNIEWSKI**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
8 Public, having been first duly sworn,
9 testified as follows:

10

11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

12 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

13 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
14 the record.

15 A Pat Wisniewski, W-i-s-n-i-e-w-s-k-i.

16 Q Please go ahead.

17 A I don't have anything prepared, but I would just like
18 to see what can be done about the -- decreasing this raise
19 for the senior citizens of our community.

20 I also live in a bad neighborhood, a low
21 poverty -- I live on the near northwest side, and there are
22 many people that are worse off than me, and my situation
23 isn't good.

24 If you look around this room, maybe there are
25 only 2 percent of the people not in our age group, and I'm

1 hoping for them that they don't have to go through what
2 we're going through now.

3 We on limited incomes cannot bear this increase.
4 Sometimes you wonder if you should pay your electric bill,
5 buy your medicine, or buy your food. It's just sometimes
6 too much, and I would like to thank you for the opportunity
7 to speak, and I'm just hoping that all of us here will be
8 able to get some help.

9 We thank you.

10 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Wisniewski.

11 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, ma'am.

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25 (WITNESS PAT WISNIEWSKI EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: All right, next we have Karen
2 Gindele.

3

4 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

5

6 **KAREN GINDELE**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
7 having been first duly sworn, testified as
8 follows:

9

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

12 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
13 the record.

14 A Karen Gindele, G-i-n-d-e-l-e.

15 Q You may go ahead.

16 A I have prepared no remarks; I've heard people speak
17 eloquently and forcefully with many specific items.

18 The things that I was going to speak about were
19 the metering problem, the inefficiency of I&M, and the
20 great increase that, as many people have remarked, is
21 creating an undue burden, an unjust burden, on people with
22 fixed incomes, which I will be looking forward to very
23 soon.

24 I feel that the simplest thing is that I&M
25 ignores input from the community; that they spend lots of

1 money cutting down trees; they do not -- they seem to have
2 ample manpower for cutting down trees, for not installing
3 solar panels, which is increasingly popular across the
4 country. I have family in New Hampshire, and in the
5 neighborhood quite comparable, there are many, many solar
6 panels, and people are feeling an investment that's
7 worthwhile in doing that.

8 Just somehow my voice is shaking being up here
9 and being nervous in front of you all even though I teach
10 at IUSB, and I'm in classrooms full of students all the
11 time.

12 The short and the long of it is I think this is
13 exploitation, as people have said. It's unjust; it's
14 corporate greed, and it's just unjust, so thank you.

15 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Ms. Gindele.

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(WITNESS KAREN GINDELE EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we have Mr. Steve Lee.

2 MR. LEE: I'm going to retract my option to speak
3 at this time.

4 MR. HELMEN: Okay, that's fine.

5 MR. LEE: Thank you.

6 MR. HELMEN: Mr. Victor Myers?

7 THE COURT: Please raise your right hand.

8

9 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

10

11 **VICTOR MYERS**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
12 having been first duly sworn, testified as
13 follows:

14

15 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

16 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

17 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
18 the record, sir.

19 A Victor Myers, M-y-e-r-s.

20 Q You may go ahead.

21 A I'm a South Bend resident, a customer of I&M, a member
22 of Kern Road Mennonite Church, which has installed solar
23 panels in an effort to address climate change.

24 My comments are likely to be repetitive; my main
25 concern, as others have stated, is that the fixed fee

1 provides no incentives to conserve energy. It penalizes
2 people who wish to save energy. If fees are needed, at
3 least they should be on the chargeable portion of cents per
4 kilowatt hours so that if people want to save money, they
5 can at least conserve energy and save money that way.

6 I suspect, however, that the conservation of
7 energy is kind of against the profit motive of Indiana
8 Michigan Power, and I think we need to give some serious
9 thought to that problem of how we address that, and
10 presumably, if we -- if all of us together manage to save
11 energy, that should reduce the capital requirements to
12 build more plants, and therein lies the ability for all of
13 us to benefit, including the utility companies.

14 I'm also concerned that we need to replace fossil
15 fuel generation of electricity with wind and solar, and to
16 those who object that this is not possible, the rates --
17 the cost of building solar powered plants and wind powered
18 plants is reaching a point where it's cost competitive and
19 will become cheaper in the next few years with natural gas.
20 That is documented in various sources, and also the
21 argument is also stated that we need certain base load
22 power. There are scientific work done by Mark Jacobson
23 which elaborates that it is possible to have a large
24 percentage of renewable energy without destabilizing the
25 grid system.

1 So I encourage the Regulatory Commission to look
2 further into those -- some of those studies that show that
3 20 percent is a meager -- a way low goal for renewable
4 energy. We should be at 50 percent and eventually at 100
5 percent.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Mr. Myers.

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(WITNESS VICTOR MYERS EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we have Christopher Cobb.

2 THE COURT: Please raise your right hand to be
3 sworn.

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5 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

6

7 **CHRISTOPHER COBB**, a witness appearing on behalf of the

8 Public, having been first duly sworn,

9 testified as follows:

10

11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

12 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

13 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
14 the record, sir.

15 A My name is Christopher Cobb, C-o-b-b.

16 Q Please go ahead.

17 A I'm an I&M customer and a resident of South Bend,
18 Indiana. Thank you all for taking the time to come and
19 join us here in South Bend this evening to talk about this
20 important issue.

21 I want to begin simply by affirming the cogency
22 of the testimony that you've heard from many speakers
23 before me, and I will try to avoid detailed repetition of
24 points about the unjustness of fixed charges and the lack
25 of forward thinking in I&M's planning around its energy

1 sources in my comments.

2 What I would like to bring to the Regulatory
3 Commission's attention as an additional factor that I hope
4 that you will consider in rejecting this proposal as it
5 should be rejected is the clear appearance of dishonesty
6 about the way in which I&M has presented the purpose of
7 this rate increase to the public, and I believe they've
8 also done everything they can to muddy the waters in the
9 materials that are presented to the IURC justifying this
10 increase. So I'm just going to point out a few statements
11 in documents and in public statements of I&M about this.

12 In the South Bend Tribune, September 30th, Tracy
13 Warner, I&M spokesperson, was quoted as saying "A lot of
14 the electric infrastructure is aging, dating back to the
15 1930s and in some cases even earlier than that. This is a
16 proactive plan to go out and replace some of this aging
17 infrastructure."

18 When one turns to the actual Petition, I&M leads
19 with revised depreciation, presumably for the meters that
20 we've heard a good deal about so far. Now, infrastructure
21 dating back to the 1930s, I fail to see how any plan that
22 is looking at dealing with infrastructure installed in the
23 1930s in 2017 can be dignified by the word proactive. Does
24 I&M think that the public is stupid? Do they think that we
25 don't pay attention to what they do? Do they think that

1 the needs of the public are irrelevant to decision making?

2 I would ask the Regulatory Commission to parse
3 carefully this proposal from I&M to determine what part of
4 these requested rate increases has to do with the actual
5 cost of delivering electrical service in an environmentally
6 sound way. That, I submit, is the primary basis for
7 establishing electrical rates.

8 I&M seems to believe that they are -- they have a
9 right to a certain level of return on investment that they
10 can use to attract as much funding from investors as they
11 want to have to bail them out for their corporate
12 mismanagement.

13 It is interesting that in Indiana right now, as I
14 understand from public documents, that of the 14 utilities
15 that are under IURC regulation, four of the five most
16 expensive are four of the five utilities that are owned by
17 public investors -- by investor -- by private investors,
18 excuse me, and let me be clear for the record. Private
19 investors. The rates are higher than virtually every
20 municipally-owned utility. I question why privately-held
21 companies should be given more latitude to charge their
22 customers simply to get the rates of profit that their
23 investors would like to see.

24 I have seen some cities in this area considering
25 whether they should start their own municipal utilities. I

1 think that I would like the IURC to consider the
2 implications of the fragmentation of Indiana's electrical
3 services as a result of municipalities deciding that they
4 will no longer pay the exorbitant rates that are being
5 authorized for investor-owned public monopolies to charge.

6 Finally, I want to go to their language one more
7 time, twice more actually, but quickly I hope. First, in
8 terms of their assertion of a right to the profit margins
9 that they see as desirable to themselves, they describe in
10 the Petition their current rate -- current allowed rates as
11 unjust, unreasonable, insufficient, and confiscatory. Wow.

12 When you are proposing to take \$300 a year more
13 from people on fixed incomes to deliver the same product
14 and you call what you are being asked to do confiscatory,
15 that seems to me to be a level of hubris and mendacity that
16 is offensive to the public.

17 Finally, they also blame the need for these cost
18 increases on regulations imposed by the U.S. EPA. Had I&M
19 planned with any foresight, as many other utilities around
20 the nation have done, they would not be not saddled with
21 white elephants, or should I call them black elephants, of
22 these coal plants in Rockport that they are attempting to
23 get a public bailout for.

24 Blaming the EPA for actually acting in the public
25 interest by protecting the environment is just one more

1 instance of their failure to take any responsibility for
2 their corporate mismanagement and to blame everyone but
3 themselves for their problems and to lie to the public
4 about why they actually are seeking to increase the rates.

5 This package of irresponsibility and dishonesty
6 should be considered no serious basis for a request to take
7 \$300 a year out of the pockets of our seniors.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. HELMEN: Thank you.

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(WITNESS CHRISTOPHER COBB EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: All right, next we have Jerry. You
2 know who you are.

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4 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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6 **MOHAMAD JERRY MOHAJERI**, a witness appearing on behalf of
7 the Public, having been first duly
8 sworn, testified as follows:

9

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

12 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
13 the record.

14 A My name is Mohamad Mohajeri. I'm also known as Jerry
15 Mohajeri since 1959.

16 THE REPORTER: Please spell your first and last
17 name, sir.

18 A M-o-h-a-j-e-r-i is the spelling of last name, and the
19 first name spells M-o-h-a-m-a-d.

20 Q Thank you, sir. Go ahead.

21 A I've lived in South Bend since 1968, and I understand
22 that rate increases are necessary for utilities to continue
23 delivering safe and reliable service to their customers;
24 this is a known fact. However, I want the utility -- I
25 want the IURC to consider these questions that I'm going to

1 pose to them before approving this rate increase.

2 First of all, I want them to consider many of the
3 St. Joseph County senior citizens whose social security
4 check is less than \$900 a month, and I know a few of them
5 personally. If you take \$300 out of their income, their
6 social security check, that's a third of their income. How
7 are they going to live? How are they going to subside, and
8 many of them have taken jobs in their 80s, in their 70s,
9 and minimum wage jobs, so please consider these questions
10 that I'm posing to the IURC.

11 Have you conducted a recent survey to examine
12 rate case behavior and rate case messaging among customers?

13 Is there a white paper study that surveyed the
14 ratepayers?

15 Is the money going to pay for transmission
16 replacement and other updates to the aging main facility or
17 our infrastructure?

18 Was there a blue ribbon panel of utility experts
19 to support their case?

20 Within the white paper, is there an outline of
21 recommended sequencing for successful rate increases?

22 Is there strategies to manage and contain retail
23 rates and billing impacts?

24 Finally, has the company spent too much on paying
25 its investors and not enough in fixing its crumbling

1 infrastructure?

2 From the comments that I have heard here, I&M has
3 not done this. They have paid their investors more than
4 they have invested in the infrastructure.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, sir.

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25 (WITNESS MOHAMAD JERRY MOHAJERI EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we have Christine Fiordalis.

2

3 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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5 **CHRISTINE FIORDALIS**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
6 Public, having been first duly sworn,
7 testified as follows:

8

9 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

10 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

11 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
12 the record, ma'am.

13 A Christine Fiordalis, F-i-o-r-d-a-l-i-s.

14 Q Thank you.

15 A I'd like to bring a somewhat different perspective to
16 what I say to you now.

17 The testimony you've heard so far has been, I
18 think, very well stated. People have talked about problems
19 with paying bills; they've talked about the problems with
20 sustainable energy and where we're going with energy
21 conservation, which, by the way, are not new issues. I've
22 been involved in environmental issues for a long time
23 personally and have even, you know, testified in other
24 hearings such as this about rate hike increases and so
25 forth and so on. So nothing here is new to any of us in

1 this room or to I&M.

2 You know, it's not so much a bad business
3 decision on their part. I think actually it's a rather
4 calculated business decision. They're very used to an
5 arrogant point of view, sort of running roughshod over the
6 people that they are supposed to be serving for the sake of
7 making a dollar, and that's what I really want to address.

8 You know, I think that you as an independent
9 Regulatory Commission have a wonderful, excellent
10 opportunity at this point and going down the road to change
11 the perspective or the ground in which you make decisions.

12 You know, it's not so much anymore us and them,
13 you know, business making a profit, and the rest of us sort
14 of having to do whatever we have to do to pay that bill.
15 We need to think more, I believe, about the common good,
16 you know, the changes that we're seeing in the environment,
17 the heavy storms that we're seeing.

18 I remember an op-ed in the New York Times not
19 long ago where it was stated that really the consensus
20 about whether or not the climate is changing is really not
21 a question any longer. The real question is: How do we
22 deal with the effects of the fact that the weather is
23 changing and that we're seeing more difficult storms?
24 We're seeing the need for, you know, different ways to
25 generate energy.

1 So I would like to suggest to you that you change
2 your perspective, the way in which you deal with these
3 issues, to be more -- to look at it from the point of view
4 of the common good, that what do we all need? Business,
5 the consumer, the environment, we need to cooperate with
6 one another now. The days are long past that we can be
7 pitted against one another and expect any particular
8 progress to be made on any issue, and as Steve pointed out,
9 these issues about rate increases and so forth and so on
10 are going to come up again.

11 So this is your opportunity to start, you know,
12 putting a foot in the sand here, draw a line in the sand
13 and say, wait a minute, it's not just about a bottom line
14 mentality anymore; now it's about what we as a society of
15 citizens, of human beings actually need in order to survive
16 and do well in the coming years.

17 I'm asking you to look at this issue from the
18 point of view of a statesman, not just a regulatory board,
19 but to exercise your deep human compassion for what needs
20 to be done on the planet today and address it from a point
21 of view that takes into consideration the needs of
22 everyone, not just a rate increase here or a business
23 decision over there. Let's bring it all together; let's
24 work together, and let's make sure that we're able to move
25 forward in a compassionate way because, honestly, it could

1 be you next week that gets flooded or that faces a wildfire
2 or has a lack of electricity. Let's plan for it so that
3 we're not finding ourselves over and over again in crisis
4 mode, and that requires an attitude of statesmanship.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. HELMEN: Thank you.

7 THE COURT: We're going to take a five-minute
8 recess now.

9 Let's go off the record.

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17 (WITNESS CHRISTINE FIORDALIS EXCUSED)

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25 (HEARING IN RECESS UNTIL 7:30 P.M., SAME DAY)

1 South Bend, Indiana
2 October 2, 2017
3 7:30 P.M. (EDT)
4

5 THE COURT: Let's go back on the record.

6 MR. HELMEN: First up we have Jerry Donaldson.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Donaldson, if you could raise
8 your right hand.

9

10 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

11

12 **JERRY DONALDSON**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
13 Public, having been first duly sworn,
14 testified as follows:

15

16 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

17 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

18 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
19 the record.

20 A Jerry Donaldson, D-o-n-a-l-d-s-o-n.

21 Q You may go ahead. Thank you.

22 A Well, as I listen to everyone that spoke thus far, you
23 know, you look at justices and you look at injustice. From
24 a point of view of management and from a financial point of
25 view, you know, every business is in business to make a

1 profit, but if you making that profit on the backs of
2 people who can't afford to buy the things -- the service or
3 even afford it -- The last illustration was by the
4 gentleman making \$900, and with the proposal of it being
5 \$300, one-third of that income with going to just that --
6 you know, you're talking about \$10.70 increase up from
7 \$7.30 to \$18; that's a large jump for anyone.

8 So I would like that -- the panel, I would like
9 that each and every person in here recognize the justices
10 and injustices as it appear, and one thing that you do want
11 to know is that you do want to serve the people. It looks
12 like when you are in business, you're always in business to
13 make a profit, but along with making that profit along the
14 way, one should be able to set aside income for times such
15 as now. You know, if you fail the plan, you plan the fail.

16 So as a result, if the monies during the -- you
17 know, the Scripture talked about seven years of plenty and
18 seven years of famine. We have to make sure that during
19 the plentiful times that the money is set aside because
20 famine is going to come for all, and that's on both sides.

21 So if the monies are being allocated in the
22 beginning towards the fact that when replacement of parts
23 has to take place, one would have stored in the store house
24 that money up so that that money can be allocated to make
25 repairs and things like that. If that's not done, then it

1 looks like the appearance that -- you know, bad decision
2 making.

3 It's just like any of us. If you're on a fixed
4 income, then you already know how much money is going to
5 come in, but you can't speculate what money is going to go
6 out, especially when increases like this happen. You know,
7 you're going with more than a 50 percent increase as far as
8 this charge is concerned, so it's hard for one to say that
9 if I've got this money coming -- Inflation is going up.
10 You don't have money that is going up. Salaries are not
11 rising, and one thing I challenge the panel as well as
12 everyone on the panel is to look around. One day, you
13 going to be older, too, if you live long enough, and as you
14 get older, consider the things that the people are saying
15 or the people have thus far said.

16 Anyway, we know that business has to go on, but
17 business shouldn't go on the backs of people. You know, I
18 believe that there's give and take on both parts, and I
19 believe that if the right planning, the right
20 advertisement, and the right everything going to it -- Like
21 I heard the term smart meters. I don't think you need
22 smart meters; I think you need smart leaders, and so with
23 those who would make the right types of business decisions
24 for going -- or going forward, then the right thing could
25 be made.

1 I pray that each and every person here can come
2 to some type of consensus so that the right thing can be
3 done by all.

4 Thank you.

5 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Donaldson.

6 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, sir.

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25 (WITNESS JERRY DONALDSON EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Mr. Tom Terlecki.

2 THE COURT: Sir, if you could raise your right
3 hand.

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5 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

6

7 **TOM TERLECKI**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
8 having been first duly sworn, testified as
9 follows:

10

11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

12 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

13 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
14 the record.

15 A Tom Terlecki, T-e-r-l-e-c-k-i.

16 Q Please go ahead.

17 A I've heard a lot of good comments tonight. I wasn't
18 really prepared to talk, but one of the things that comes
19 to mind is that I read in the past where one of the
20 regulatory agencies -- or I should say the electric
21 company, and this happened to be in Arizona. Folks there
22 were adding solar panels, and they were supplying some
23 power back to the grid, and the big electric companies
24 didn't want that. They were trying to stop that and put in
25 a constraint.

1 I'm hoping that in the future if it comes up that
2 we can consider this where if somebody adds a photo panel
3 or a photovoltaic cell on their roof or whatever or uses
4 geothermal that they're not penalized. This will help
5 everybody in the long run.

6 That's my statement. Thanks.

7 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

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(WITNESS TOM TERLECKI EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we have Ms. Penny Hughes.

2 THE COURT: Ma'am, please raise your right hand.

3

4 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

5

6 **PENNY HUGHES**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

7 having been first duly sworn, testified as

8 follows:

9

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

12 Q Please state your name for the record and spell your
13 last name, ma'am.

14 A Penny Hughes, H-u-g-h-e-s.

15 Q Please go ahead.

16 A I am a housing provider in South Bend. I have 34
17 tenants, and their rents are all due the 1st, and the late
18 fee kicks in the 5th and another one on the 15th, and these
19 are people that don't have a lot of collections and
20 judgments, but yet they all wait until the very last minute
21 before that fee kicks in, so not just the seniors.

22 I'm also on the AARP Board, and the seniors -- we
23 all know we've heard from many that they're living on fixed
24 incomes, and I've been on that for a few years.

25 I serve as a Commissioner on the Human Rights

1 Commission; I serve as a Housing Chair of the NAACP Board,
2 so I'm involved in a lot of activities where I hear people
3 who are really hurting and struggling to make ends meet.

4 That's why I was frustrated and wanted to come
5 tonight when I read in the Tribune -- I'll just read
6 this -- that our I&M monthly bills have increased
7 62 percent over the last ten years, and 36 percent of that
8 has been something -- I don't know what it was, but
9 anyways, it's been pretty drastic. That was in the
10 September 30th paper.

11 I&M's parent company, AEP, year to date operating
12 income is \$835 million. I don't -- my real concern is this
13 fixed monthly charges. We have that in -- when I have a
14 vacancy, I'll be paying the water bill for that house while
15 it's vacant, and it's nothing to see an \$80 water bill a
16 month while it sits empty because of these fixed charges.
17 There's a whole list of them, and I don't know if you've
18 seen, but that happens all the time, and that's another
19 expense that housing providers are having to pay when
20 there's a vacancy or when they're providing water for the
21 tenants, and these things all get passed on to the tenants
22 in hopes of making a profit.

23 The -- I want to -- I had a question about the --
24 I was coming once from east of Indianapolis, Alexandria,
25 and coming up to bypass Indianapolis and Kokomo on my way

1 home, and I was on this strange highway. I don't remember
2 the number of it, but I saw hundreds of big huge windmills
3 all over the place; every place you looked were these huge
4 windmills out on the farms, and I was telling our -- I
5 think it was one of our legislators: What on earth is
6 that? That's I&M, I believe; right? You guys have built
7 those and paid the farmers to build those? He said guess
8 what? That energy that those are producing is going to
9 California. I just wonder if that's true. I don't know,
10 but I was kind of shocked because it seems like if those
11 profits stayed here, we wouldn't need to be having these
12 high charges, so if you can, find out if that's what's
13 going on or not.

14 Last I wanted to say that we had a speaker come
15 in from HUD regional office, and she said if any community
16 or municipality passes any laws that hurts the poor people,
17 minorities, they will come after us, so we have to be very
18 careful that we don't, you know, end up with some kind of
19 charges against them because of that, and you might want to
20 check on that and see what all that entails.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. HELMEN: Thank you.

23

24

25 **(WITNESS PENNY HUGHES EXCUSED)**

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we have Edward Liptrap.

2 THE COURT: Raise your right hand, please.

3

4 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

5

6 **EDWARD LIPTRAP**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
7 Public, having been first duly sworn,
8 testified as follows:

9

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

12 Q Would you state your name and spell your last name for
13 the record, sir?

14 A Edward Liptrap, L-i-p-t-r-a-p.

15 Q Please go ahead.

16 A I appreciate a lot of the comments people have made,
17 and I realize that there's a lot of seniors on fixed
18 incomes.

19 I have a three-year old and a six-year old. My
20 kids go to school on the west side here. I see a lot of --
21 I'm in the construction industry. I see a lot of parents
22 who are struggling right now. These decisions that they're
23 making are affecting their kids. This money, we are
24 talking \$27 -- I get that Kathy itemized her food bill.
25 There's a lot of parents that can't be here right now

1 because they're watching their kids. That \$27, that \$28,
2 that's coming right out of what their kids are eating.

3 Right now over in Elkhart, they're having a
4 meeting to shut down the Tolson Center. Basically, they
5 can't find the money to run like a public center that's
6 actually helping some of the kids that need it the most.
7 We can't find money for that, but somehow we're telling
8 these communities that they need to figure out how to make
9 it; they need to figure out how to be responsible and run
10 their communities and figure out where to come up with the
11 money, but when a company like I&M does something
12 irresponsible, when they don't -- when they put these
13 meters in that aren't going to last, somehow we're supposed
14 to bail them out.

15 Being in the construction industry, we've got a
16 lot of people here in South Bend that are getting hit with
17 fees for code violations. Those people aren't getting
18 bailed out. We're telling those people that you need to be
19 responsible for your own home. We're not giving you money;
20 you need to take care of it, so why is it that the
21 residents here in South Bend have to be responsible for
22 their own property? Why is it that the people in Elkhart
23 get their community center taken away from them? Why is it
24 that all this stuff -- everybody else needs to be
25 responsible, but I&M doesn't need to be responsible? We

1 need to come up with the money to bail them out for their
2 mistakes.

3 In this state, time and time again, I'm going to
4 meetings -- we're going to budget meetings for the county,
5 for the city, various counties around here. Everybody is
6 figuring out they've got to tighten up their -- they've got
7 to tighten things up. We're having to make decisions;
8 we're having to cut things because the state says, hey, you
9 guys need to be more responsible. You guys need to live
10 within your means, but somehow I&M comes back and says,
11 hey, we're going to hit you with this fee, this exorbitant
12 fee, because we couldn't be responsible and do our jobs.

13 As far as I'm concerned, this -- and I appreciate
14 everybody who's a senior here. This is as much about kids
15 who aren't represented here. We don't have little kids
16 running around here, but they're the ones that -- this is
17 coming out of their pockets.

18 I thank you for your time. Thank you.

19 MR. HELMEN: Thank you.

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(WITNESS EDWARD LIPTRAP EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: How about Ms. Joan Baca?

2 MS. BACA: Good evening, everyone. Thank you for
3 coming so much.

4 THE COURT: If you could raise your right hand.

5

6 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

7

8 **JOAN BACA**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

9 having been first duly sworn, testified as

10 follows:

11

12 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

13 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

14 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
15 the record.

16 A Joan Baca, last name spelled B-a-c-a.

17 Q Thank you, ma'am. Go ahead.

18 A Okay. A lot of great things have been said; a lot of
19 the things I was going to say have already been covered, so
20 I won't repeat.

21 The gentleman who was here before me said about
22 children, and that led me to believe -- to question what
23 will happen to those people who are at home, children,
24 infants, middle age, teenagers, seniors who need electrical
25 equipment to keep them alive? Not alive but to help them

1 stay alive. There's breathing machines, et cetera. What
2 will happen to them with this raise that's going to go on?

3 I looked at the Federal Energy Regulatory
4 Commission executive compensation table. Last year, Mr.
5 Akins, Nicholas K., when you added in his salary, his
6 bonus, his stock rewards and everything else that he gets
7 made \$11,472,740. Now this is for the Year 2016, and the
8 period of their report was Quarter 4. That's a lot of
9 money. I can't even imagine, you know, if that was 1,000
10 dollar bills, how many buildings or houses like what I have
11 that would fill. What does one person do with that much
12 money? It's unbelievable, and here they -- the company
13 that he is the head of wants to hit everyone with a \$263.2
14 million increase because they're careless, irresponsible,
15 and cavalier plus other descriptive items, and that we the
16 consumer, the average person, has to make that up.

17 Now if you're getting paid that amount of money,
18 I would think he would watch all the Ps and Qs and make
19 sure all of the Ts and the Is, all of that kind of stuff is
20 taken care of. There are too many mistakes because of
21 their cavalier attitude. We don't care about the consumer;
22 we have the electricity. We are the big guys, and I don't
23 mean guys in a -- that kind of way, but we have the power;
24 we have the control, and for many people, that's a real big
25 power trip, and we the consumers should not have to be bled

1 for that because I actually feel like I'm going to be bled
2 for this.

3 I've got to jiggle things around and figure out
4 where I'm going to get at least \$300 more, and how long
5 will this increase go on? It doesn't -- I didn't see
6 the -- in the article in the South Bend Tribune, I didn't
7 see it say for 12 months, for 16 months, for 24 months.
8 When will it stop, and how will we know? Well, they come
9 out and say, well, you know, in ten minutes, we'll be done
10 with this increase, but again, why should we pay because
11 they don't care about the environment, the concept of that
12 coal in Rockport -- I think that was Rockport, and they're
13 just -- I can't believe that this can go on.

14 You people on the board are our hope that you see
15 that is a ridiculous increase. People who make mistakes in
16 companies should pay for their mistakes, not everybody else
17 who utilizes the energy in this case that this company
18 produces.

19 Thank you very much.

20 MR. HELMEN: Thank you.

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25 (WITNESS JOAN BACA EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: May we have Ms. Therese Dorau?

2 THE COURT: Please raise your right hand.

3

4 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

5

6 **THERESE DORAU**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

7 having been first duly sworn, testified as

8 follows:

9

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

12 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
13 the record.

14 A My name is Therese Dorau, last name is D-o-r-a-u.

15 Q Thank you.

16 A I'm the Director of Sustainability for the City of
17 South Bend.

18 The City is a large customer of Indiana Michigan
19 Power with nearly 600 accounts totaling 40,000 megawatt
20 hours and \$3.6 million annually. The City also represents
21 a significant portion of I&M's customers, the residents and
22 businesses of South Bend, and so because of that, I would
23 like to read prepared comments on behalf of the City of
24 South Bend.

25 The City of South Bend urges the Indiana Utility

1 Regulatory Commission to consider Indiana Michigan Power's
2 requested rate increase in the context of both its
3 immediate and its long-term impacts on our most vulnerable
4 residents.

5 As a voice for over 101,000 Hoosiers, we call on
6 our public utility and the IURC to keep rates affordable
7 and predictable for residents today while also dramatically
8 reducing greenhouse gas emissions to protect future
9 generations of residents.

10 This IURC cause proposes increasing the fixed
11 charge on each account by 147 percent. This change most
12 severely impacts fixed income and low income households
13 while also dampening investment in renewable energy and
14 discouraging energy efficiency. Customers who use the
15 least electricity will see their bills increase most
16 dramatically.

17 South Bend's residents represent a rich and
18 valuable diversity of cultures, ages, and experiences.
19 However, we recognize that 28 percent of our citizens live
20 in poverty, and the burden of increased utility bills is
21 exacerbated by drafty and inefficient housing. This rate
22 case will have an immediate impact on the economic
23 stability of South Bend based customers, and that impact
24 must be addressed by the IURC.

25 At the same time, the IURC must consider the

1 long-range effects of rate case decisions on the safety and
2 health of Hoosiers' environment. South Bend neighborhoods
3 as well as city infrastructure will struggle to manage and
4 recover from the disruptions caused by climate change such
5 as extreme heat and rain events and poor air quality.

6 The IURC must evaluate the necessity of burning
7 fossil fuels for electricity generation and weigh it
8 against the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gases and
9 other harmful air pollutants.

10 This rate case's financial and climate impacts
11 will disproportionately affect our low income residents,
12 communities of color, children, and seniors both
13 immediately and over the long term.

14 We request the IURC protect these vulnerable
15 Hoosiers by minimizing utility bill increases and ensuring
16 that funds from rate increases support a low carbon,
17 climate safe energy future.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. HELMEN: Thank you.

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(WITNESS THERESE DORAU EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Mr. Larry D.
2 Biesbrouck.

3 Is Larry here?

4 Okay, we'll see if he comes up later.

5 Next we have Ms. Beverly Torres.

6 THE COURT: If you could raise your right hand.

7

8 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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10 **BEVERLY TORRES**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
11 Public, having been first duly sworn,
12 testified as follows:

13

14 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

15 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

16 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
17 the record, ma'am.

18 A Beverly Torres, T-o-r-r-e-s.

19 Q Thank you. Please go ahead.

20 A I'm here representing Stone Soup Community. It's a
21 local small social service agency.

22 Part of what we do is we help people with
23 emergency utility situations. For instance, someone might
24 come in and say my utilities are going to be shut off in
25 two days, and I don't have the money; I only have this

1 much, and so we look at their situation, and we try to see
2 if we can help them to keep those utilities on.

3 Of the utilities that we help with, water, gas,
4 and electric, electric is about 40 percent of the total
5 amount of help that we give out, so it's a big amount, and
6 I've worked there ten years, and it's always been that way.
7 It has not changed as far as being the most that we get
8 requests for.

9 We serve people mainly at 100 percent or less of
10 the poverty level. One person for 100 percent of the
11 poverty level is 990 a month. That's considered
12 100 percent poverty, so if you consider if somebody was
13 working minimum wage, which many of our clients do have
14 those types of jobs, working full time at 36 hours a week,
15 that monthly income is actually after taxes 796 a month, so
16 it's very low.

17 If someone pays, say, \$500 rent and heat \$80,
18 electric \$70, water \$60, food 125, transportation 100, say
19 \$25 a week for gas, right, and personal care items -- you
20 want to smell and look good; right? -- so you have \$960, so
21 that is actually a negative of \$164 a month, and that's
22 average costs; those are not exorbitant or lower. Those
23 are pretty average, so when you talk about people in the
24 lower income areas, that \$18 makes a big difference,
25 especially if you're already \$164 in the hole every month.

1 So what are you doing? You're going to Soul
2 Soup; you're going to the trustee; you're going to places
3 to try to get help to make up that \$164, so this is not
4 living high on the hog, as you can see. This is just
5 barely making it and basic, basic needs. So for people who
6 have been up here talking about people with low incomes,
7 whether they be seniors, whether they be families, whether
8 they be, you know, single people, that increase could make
9 a big difference in their lives if they are in this
10 situation, and many of them are.

11 One thing that I know NIPSCO did was if they
12 were -- if people are in the LIHEAP program, and that's the
13 energy assistance program they have every year, which also
14 does help with the electric but it helps with the gas as
15 well, but NIPSCO -- if you're in that, then you also -- on
16 top of that, they give you a little bit of a discount on
17 your bill, so it will range from 6 percent to 11 percent to
18 25 percent depending on how many are in your household and
19 what your income is. So that kind of helps to help those
20 people -- even though there's an increase, that's helping
21 the people that can really not afford that increase by
22 giving them -- Yeah, they're still paying that fee, but
23 then later, they will get that little bit of a discount
24 back to try to balance it out.

25 Because \$18 for a lot of people is not that big

1 of a deal; it's not that big of a deal for me. I'd rather
2 not, but it's not that big of a deal, but for some people,
3 it's a huge deal, and it's hard to imagine that it's such a
4 huge deal, and I -- We have interns from difference places,
5 and one intern really, really hit me. He came from an
6 affluent family, went to Notre Dame, and he was just
7 shocked, just blown away, just couldn't understand -- never
8 thought -- this is back when transport was 75 cents; that
9 was a while ago -- that someone didn't have 75 cents to get
10 on the bus. He was just blown away by that. He was like I
11 can't imagine that -- I would have never imagined that that
12 would be true of anyone, but it is, and so those people are
13 really the ones who are going to be hurt by this, not your
14 average person, but the people that have low income.

15 So I thank you very much for hearing me out, and
16 I do have some more stats, and I would like to give these
17 to each of you if you could.

18 MR. HELMEN: Yes. Thank you.

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(WITNESS BEVERLY TORRES EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Mr. Carl Fisher.

2 Mr. Fisher still with us? No?

3 Mr. Bruce Treece?

4 THE COURT: Sir, if you could raise your right
5 hand.

6

7 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

8

9 **BRUCE TREECE**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
10 having been first duly sworn, testified as
11 follows:

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13 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

14 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

15 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
16 the record.

17 A Bruce Treece, T-r-e-e-c-e.

18 Q Thank you, sir.

19 A I live over in Osceola, and as you can tell, I'm a
20 senior citizen with a fixed income, but not only for me but
21 for everyone else, what I cannot understand is all these
22 years I've been paying electric bills and other utility
23 bills, they always have your rate; then they've got on this
24 added tax, that added tax. One of them on this one is a
25 tax to shut down the Cook nuclear plant, a special fee just

1 to shut down the plant when it's done with it.

2 What have they been doing with this money? Look
3 at the utility bill sometime and see all of the added fees
4 that they have on there. They are not taking care of the
5 monies they have. Then, like everybody else has said, they
6 want to make us pay for their mistakes.

7 Now, I know you people are supposedly impartial,
8 but so many times I've seen in government and that, money
9 speaks louder than the individual citizens. So keep that
10 in mind when you're looking at this. Don't let the company
11 get by with buying you guys off if that's possible. Don't
12 let it happen. Think of the people that you are -- that
13 are here tonight and the other people that you're going to
14 hear and other testimonies in the other communities -- I
15 know you're going to other communities along with this --
16 before you make a decision. Keep the people in mind rather
17 than the structure of the power companies, and like she
18 said, one person making \$11 million a year to work at a
19 company. Maybe it's time they started cutting their own
20 pocketbooks a little bit and putting it back into these
21 companies.

22 Let me ask you this: If you went into McDonald's
23 and ordered a meal there and they said, oh, your bill is
24 \$10.95 but we've got to add this fee to it to replace our
25 equipment when it wears out, that's basically what they're

1 telling you right now. Here's your bill, but you've got to
2 pay an extra fee to us to replace our equipment when it
3 wears out. In other words, McDonald's would say, oh, you
4 need -- we've got to charge you a fee to replace our grill
5 or we've got to charge you a fee to replace whatever
6 equipment in addition to the bill that they've already
7 charged you. That is supposed to come out of profits, not
8 out of extra fees.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. HELMEN: Thank you.

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(WITNESS BRUCE TREECE EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we have Mr. David James.

2 Mr. James still here?

3 MR. JAMES: Yeah, I'm here. Moving a little
4 slow.

5 MR. HELMEN: That's fine.

6

7 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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9 **DAVID JAMES**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
10 having been first duly sworn, testified as
11 follows:

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13 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

14 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

15 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
16 the record, sir.

17 A David James, J-a-m-e-s.

18 Q Thank you, sir. Go ahead.

19 A There are a lot of senior citizens here tonight, a lot
20 of poor people here tonight.

21 I live in River Park; there are a lot of empty
22 houses in River Park. People having a hard time living
23 from day to day. I walk around the neighborhood, and what
24 do I see? Senior citizens and poor people. South Bend is
25 full of senior citizens and poor people. I can feel the

1 ground shaking beneath my feet, and what is it but the poor
2 people and the senior citizens coming together to change
3 the situation that we're in now.

4 We are the servants of private profit, and it's
5 about time that private profit became the servants for us.
6 This is -- it's getting tiresome, and if it doesn't change,
7 then maybe you, too, are going to be able to feel that
8 ground shaking as all these people come together to change
9 the situation that we're in.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Mr. James.

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(WITNESS DAVID JAMES EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Is Lisa DeBerry still here?

2 THE COURT: Please raise your right hand.

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4 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

5

6 **LISA DeBERRY**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

7 having been first duly sworn, testified as

8 follows:

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10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

12 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
13 the record.

14 A Lisa DeBerry, D-e-B-e-r-r-y.

15 Q Please proceed.

16 A I'm a St. Joseph County resident. I also been an I&M
17 customer for the past 15 years during which time I have
18 struggled to pay my utility bill, and that's with the
19 assistance of local assistant agencies such as Real
20 Services and local townships.

21 Also as a single mother, I've experienced
22 homelessness due to not being able to afford my utility
23 costs, electric bill.

24 I think that it's very unethical for I&M to be
25 able to bail out of a 15-year legal binding agreement and

1 force their loyal constituents to pay the cost of their
2 poor business investments. It's not fair to anyone; it's
3 really not fair, especially the fixed income and low income
4 people like myself who live in St. Joseph County who barely
5 have -- who can barely afford their utility costs on top of
6 their reoccurring monthly expenses.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. HELMEN: Thank you.

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(WITNESS LISA DeBERRY EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Jordan Giger.

2 THE COURT: If you could raise your right hand.

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4 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

5

6 **JORDAN GIGER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

7 having been first duly sworn, testified as

8 follows:

9

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

12 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
13 the record.

14 A Jordan Giger, last name is G-i-g-e-r.

15 Q Thank you, sir.

16 A I didn't prepare any remarks or anything for tonight.

17 I just came really to speak in solidarity with all of the

18 folks here to encourage you all to oppose this rate

19 increase and base rate increase.

20 I'm sure you all are familiar with the work

21 that's being done by the United Way. They produce a report

22 every year on sort of the economic health and wellness of

23 folks living in specific counties and cities throughout the

24 State of Indiana. If you look at a report, you'll find

25 that a good number of -- or a good percentage of people

1 across the counties -- various counties in the State of
2 Indiana are barely surviving on a household budget.

3 Here in South Bend specifically, about 53 percent
4 of families are barely making it on just your typical
5 household income or budget.

6 In addition to that, even the City of South Bend
7 is going up on the cost of water for local folks here also
8 due to poor planning. Poor, low income, fixed income
9 folks, seniors, folks who are disabled, single mothers,
10 single families with -- or single parents with many
11 children, they can't afford to just compensate for poor
12 planning and budgeting on investments on the part of cities
13 and also large companies and corporations such as I&M.

14 So I hope that you all would really advocate for
15 the folks who are paying these utility bills each and every
16 month faithfully and prevent them from raising this fee in
17 the rates.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Mr. Giger.

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25 (WITNESS JORDAN GIGER EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we have Mr. Vern Searer.

2 Okay, we'll move on.

3 Mr. Ben Snell?

4 THE COURT: If you could raise your right hand,
5 please.

6

7 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

8

9 **BEN SNELL**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
10 having been first duly sworn, testified as
11 follows:

12

13 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

14 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

15 Q Please state your name for the record and spell your
16 last name for the Court Reporter.

17 A Ben Snell, S-n-e-l-l.

18 Q Thank you, sir. Go ahead.

19 A Over the course of the next month, you will hear
20 testimonies from many Hoosiers who are concerned about the
21 economic impact of this rate hike.

22 A flat rate increase is inherently discriminatory
23 against the most vulnerable among us and shows disregard on
24 behalf of I&M for our most vulnerable people.

25 You will hear intelligent, informed individuals

1 debunk the information I&M has put out for the need of this
2 rate hike, as you already have tonight, and I'm sure the
3 IURC will quickly come to the conclusion that this is
4 simply a bailout for I&M.

5 This is a clear case of socialism for the rich
6 and powerful and capitalism for the poor and vulnerable.

7 My question to the IURC is this: Will you stand
8 up against the injustice against the people you have sworn
9 to serve, or will you sit quietly? We will be watching.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, sir.

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(WITNESS BEN SNELL EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: I don't have a sheet for anybody
2 else, so if you signed up and wanted to talk, let me know.

3 I'm not seeing anyone.

4 I would, at this time, Your Honor, offer South
5 Bend Field Hearing Exhibit 1, which is made up of the --
6 both the spoken and the written comments provided for at
7 this Field Hearing.

8 THE COURT: I'll show that South Bend Field
9 Hearing Exhibit 1 is admitted into the record.

10

11 (PUBLIC'S EXHIBIT NO. SOUTH BEND FH-1, BEING THE
12 PUBLIC FIELD HEARING QUESTIONNAIRES, ADMITTED
13 INTO EVIDENCE.)

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1 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Your Honor. Public
2 rests.

3 Thank you, all.

4 THE COURT: This Field Hearing is continued to
5 the October 10, 2017 Field Hearing to be held at the Grand
6 Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

7 Let's go off the record.

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19 (FIELD HEARING ADJOURNED)

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22 (AND CONTINUED TO OCTOBER 10, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. (EDT)

23 AT THE GRAND WAYNE CONVENTION CENTER,

24 120 WEST JEFFERSON BOULEVARD, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

25 FOR ANOTHER PUBLIC FIELD HEARING)

\$	1st [1] 75/17	ability [1] 55/12
\$1,381 [1] 17/12	2	able [9] 5/7 23/21 39/21 51/8 67/24 70/14 95/7 96/22 96/25
\$1,836 [1] 17/14	2 gallons [1] 36/25	about [44] 5/6 9/21 9/25 10/2 11/21 12/1 24/22 29/18 30/4 30/11 34/9 34/11 34/23 40/3 50/18 52/18 57/19 57/24 58/6 58/11 58/20 61/4 65/18 65/19 65/24 66/15 66/20 67/9 67/13 67/14 70/6 70/17 76/23 80/14 81/1 81/21 82/21 83/11 88/4 88/23 89/6 95/5 99/3 100/20
\$10.00 [1] 9/22	2 percent [1] 50/25	above [1] 23/2
\$10.70 [1] 70/6	20 [2] 2/2 49/18	absolutely [2] 17/21 33/23
\$10.95 [1] 92/24	20 percent [3] 30/9 49/20 56/3	absurd [2] 49/17 49/20
\$100 [1] 5/7	2007 [1] 42/23	accept [1] 2/23
\$11 [1] 92/18	2013 [2] 42/16 42/25	according [2] 29/22 39/10
\$11,472,740 [1] 82/7	2015 [1] 29/23	account [2] 49/15 85/11
\$164 [3] 88/21 88/25 89/3	2016 [1] 82/7	accounting [1] 1/13
\$18 [6] 14/20 23/3 23/8 70/7 88/24 89/25	2017 [9] 1/1 1/23 1/25 2/1 2/2 58/23 69/1 103/5 103/22	accounts [1] 84/19
\$2.00 [1] 48/25	2018 [1] 21/20	achieve [1] 20/7
\$2.18 [1] 36/25	2020s [1] 42/19	across [2] 53/3 99/1
\$2.50 [1] 36/23	2026 [1] 43/2	Act [1] 25/17
\$2.62 [1] 37/1	20th [1] 13/23	acted [1] 43/10
\$2.94 [1] 36/23	21 [2] 2/1 7/23	acting [2] 39/19 60/24
\$200,000 [1] 14/9	21st [3] 13/24 14/4 15/6	Action [2] 2/20 2/21
\$21 [1] 17/15	24 [1] 83/7	actions [1] 24/16
\$25 [2] 39/3 88/19	24-ounce [1] 37/1	active [1] 16/25
\$263 [1] 19/19	25 [2] 30/10 46/17	actively [1] 14/7
\$263.2 [1] 82/13	25 percent [2] 23/22 89/18	activities [1] 76/2
\$27 [2] 78/24 79/1	28 percent [1] 85/19	actual [2] 58/18 59/4
\$28 [2] 17/14 79/1	3	actually [11] 5/14 21/16 60/7 60/24 61/4 66/3 67/15 79/6 83/1 88/15 88/21
\$28.72 [1] 37/2	3 percent [1] 39/11	adapter [1] 46/2
\$29.74 [1] 36/17	309 [1] 14/7	add [2] 25/22 92/24
\$29.99 [1] 46/1	30th [2] 58/12 76/10	added [4] 82/5 91/24 91/24 92/3
\$3.56 [1] 36/25	34 [1] 75/16	adding [1] 73/22
\$3.6 [1] 84/20	36 [1] 88/14	addition [4] 28/2 43/15 93/6 99/6
\$30 [3] 25/22 39/3 46/3	36 percent [1] 76/7	additional [1] 58/3
\$300 [6] 7/24 60/12 61/7 63/5 70/5 83/4	38 [2] 48/18 49/4	Additionally [1] 14/19
\$342 [1] 17/15	4	address [4] 54/23 55/9 66/7 67/20
\$4.00 [4] 46/20 46/21 46/22 48/25	4 percent [1] 32/4	addressed [1] 85/24
\$400 [1] 45/25	40 percent [1] 88/4	adds [1] 74/2
\$5.00 [1] 36/24	40,000 [1] 84/19	adequate [1] 43/23
\$500 [2] 45/25 88/17	44871 [1] 42/3	ADJOURNED [1] 103/19
\$60 [1] 88/18	44967 [1] 1/8	adjust [1] 21/12
\$7.30 [2] 23/3 70/7	45 percent [1] 17/24	adjusted [2] 39/12 39/14
\$7.83 [1] 7/22	5	adjustment [2] 1/12 1/16
\$70 [1] 88/18	50 percent [2] 56/4 71/7	ADMINISTERED [35] 3/19 7/5 9/4 11/5 13/3 16/5 19/5 22/5 27/5 29/4 31/6 33/4 36/5 38/5 41/8 45/4 48/4 50/5 52/4 54/9 57/5 62/4 65/3 69/10 73/5 75/4 78/4 81/6 84/4 87/8 91/7 94/7 96/4 98/4 100/7
\$75,000 [1] 17/18	50-some [1] 32/1	admitted [2] 102/9 102/12
\$80 [3] 24/12 76/15 88/17	53 percent [1] 99/3	advance [1] 42/18
\$835 [1] 76/12	5th [1] 75/18	advertisement [1] 71/20
\$900 [2] 63/4 70/4	6	advocate [2] 25/20 99/14
\$960 [1] 88/20	6 percent [1] 89/17	AEP [9] 13/18 17/11 17/14 17/17 27/24 43/16 45/17 46/7 76/11
1	6,000 [1] 42/6	affect [3] 12/2 14/16 86/11
1 percent [1] 17/19	600 [1] 84/19	affecting [1] 78/23
1,000 [1] 82/9	62 percent [1] 76/7	affects [1] 11/22
10 [2] 103/5 103/22	6:00 [2] 1/2 103/22	affirming [1] 57/21
10 percent [2] 29/23 30/9	7	affluent [1] 90/6
100 [2] 56/4 88/18	7.30 [1] 14/20	afford [10] 16/21 17/19 21/1 34/8 70/2 70/3 89/21 96/22 97/5 99/11
100 percent [4] 48/19 88/9 88/10 88/12	70s [1] 63/8	affordable [1] 85/6
101,000 [1] 85/5	71-year [1] 31/22	after [5] 14/14 21/21 35/6 77/17 88/15
11 percent [1] 89/17	75 [2] 90/8 90/9	again [7] 12/2 20/19 49/17 67/10 68/3 80/3 83/10
12 [2] 17/11 83/7	796 [1] 88/15	against [11] 8/9 8/11 38/19 39/25 55/7 67/7 77/19 86/8 100/23 101/8 101/8
12-month [1] 17/13	7:30 [2] 68/25 69/2	age [2] 50/25 81/24
120 [1] 103/24	8	agencies [4] 5/9 5/18 73/20 96/19
125 [1] 88/18	80s [1] 63/8	agency [2] 25/20 87/21
130-some [1] 33/25	83,000 [1] 5/5	
14 [1] 59/14	89 [1] 36/24	
147 [1] 85/11	9	
147 percent [1] 23/2	98 [1] 36/22	
15 [5] 14/12 34/2 35/4 35/6 96/17	990 [1] 88/11	
15 percent [1] 18/1	A	
15-year [1] 96/25	AARP [1] 75/22	
15th [1] 75/18		
16 [4] 1/23 1/25 36/23 83/7		
18 [1] 7/23		
19.7 [1] 25/12		
1930s [3] 58/15 58/21 58/23		
1959 [1] 62/15		
1968 [1] 62/21		

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55/20 55/21 58/8 60/17 62/14 75/22 84/20 85/7 85/13 89/13 89/15 96/16 96/21 99/7 99/13 although [1] 24/17 always [3] 70/12 88/6 91/23 am [10] 3/12 4/12 8/11 16/19 20/20 20/21 33/14 45/16 48/23 75/16 amazing [2] 33/20 33/23 among [5] 4/15 17/23 18/1 63/12 100/23 amortizations [1] 1/19 amount [6] 23/9 25/10 31/25 82/17 88/5 88/5 ample [1] 53/2 annually [1] 84/20 another [8] 35/2 42/1 46/5 67/6 67/7 75/18 76/18 103/25 anti [1] 4/25 antiquated [1] 34/14 any [19] 5/20 19/24 21/15 29/19 33/21 39/13 46/11 46/11 58/21 60/19 61/1 65/25 66/21 67/7 67/8 71/3 77/15 77/16 98/16 anybody [1] 102/1 anymore [2] 66/12 67/14 anyone [6] 30/4 35/1 70/7 90/12 97/2 102/3 anything [4] 4/25 8/12 50/17 98/16 Anyway [1] 71/16 anyways [1] 76/9 apologize [1] 19/13 apparently [1] 43/3 appear [1] 70/10 appearance [3] 2/23 58/5 71/1 appearances [1] 2/13 appearing [35] 4/1 7/7 9/6 11/7 13/5 16/7 19/7 22/7 27/7 29/6 31/8 33/6 36/7 38/7 41/10 45/6 48/6 50/7 52/6 54/11 57/7 62/6 65/5 69/12 73/7 75/6 78/6 81/8 84/6 87/10 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ATTACHMENT KLO-3

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Public Field Hearing

Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) Rate Case

Cause Number 44967

If you would like to comment for the record in this case you must complete this form.
Testimony is welcome whether it is oral and/or written. (Both carry equal consideration.)

(Please print)

NAME JOHN PINTON

ADDRESS 1224 Sunnymede SB 46615

Are you a customer of this utility? *(circle one)* YES NO

Do you wish to speak or provide written comments? *(circle one)* SPEAK WRITTEN BOTH

If you are representing any firm or organization, please provide the name:

United Religious Comm.

SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE: 10/2/17

I OFFER THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

(You may make both written and oral comments.)

Seated and accompanied for
spoken testimony.

You may continue your comments on the back of this sheet or attach them.

You may also send comments to the OUCC at:

Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South
Indianapolis, IN 46204

web: www.IN.gov/OUCC
email: uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov
fax: (317) 232-5923



You can go directly to the OUCC's electronic contact form by scanning this code:

United Religious Community of St. Joseph County
501 N. Main Street
South Bend, IN 46601
urc@urcsjc.org
574-282-2397



October 2, 2017

Over 2 years:

The United Religious Community (URC) paid over \$83,000 to Indiana Michigan/AEP on behalf of low-income residents of St. Joseph County, out of a total of \$141,000 in expenditures¹

Average assistance is just over \$100, but that's capped by policy

The largest proportion of URC philanthropic donations are paid to the Indiana Michigan Power

Funds for relief are significantly down this year

Any raise in rates is expected to have a seriously difficult time on low-income clients, which will translate to more difficulties finding assistance

URC respectfully asks the IURC to have these concerns in mind as it considers rate increases

John Pinter
574-282-2397 x3
jpinter@urcsjc.org

¹ Other major recipients were Mishawaka Utilities, \$18,000, and NIPSCO, \$37,000)

ATTACHMENT KLO-4

10-2-17

6:17

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Public Field Hearing

Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) Rate Case

Cause Number 44967

If you would like to comment for the record in this case you must complete this form.
Testimony is welcome whether it is oral and/or written. (Both carry equal consideration.)

(Please print)

NAME BEVERLY TORRESADDRESS STONE SOUP COMMUNITY 333 N. MAIN ST
SU. BEND. INAre you a customer of this utility? (circle one) (YES) NODo you wish to speak or provide written comments? (circle one) (SPEAK) WRITTEN BOTH

If you are representing any firm or organization, please provide the name:

STONE SOUP COMMUNITYSIGNATURE: Beverly TorresDATE: 10-2-17

I OFFER THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

(You may make both written and oral comments.)

You may continue your comments on the back of this sheet or attach them.

You may also send comments to the OUCC at:

Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South
Indianapolis, IN 46204

web: www.IN.gov/OUCC
email: uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov
fax: (317) 232-5923



You can go directly to the OUCC's electronic contact form by scanning this code:

Torres altamirano

Per the 2014 ALICE Report:

Across Indiana, 37% of households are struggling to support themselves; to afford the life's basic needs.

Underscoring the fact that many jobs in Indiana do not pay enough to allow families to afford the most basic household budget.

The core issue is that these jobs do not pay enough to afford the basics of housing, utilities, child care, food, healthcare and transportation.

At the same time, the cost of basic household necessities continues to rise.

These households are forced to make difficult choices such as skipping preventative health care, healthy food, or car insurance. These "savings" threaten their health, safety and future.

Per the South Bend Tribune: on 11/11/14:

% of Struggling Households in:

Portage Twp. 56%,
in Clay Twp. 33%,
in South Bend as a whole 45%.
In Penn Twp. 33%,
in Mishawaka as a whole 40%.

Their research also suggested you would need to make \$23.00 per hour to afford a family.

Most of our heads of households make on average 7.25-10.00 per hour.

Female-headed households with children account for 25 percent of Indiana families with children but 54% of those families below the 200% FPL.

Even if the family isn't a single parent household (ie: 2 parents (x \$10.00) is only \$20.00 per hour and falls short).



*chiseling away poverty;
building stable lives*

The Art of Helping People



(574) 246-0364

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

**100% OF THE FEDERAL
POVERTY INCOME LEVEL**

{For 1 person} IS:

\$ 972.00 per month

- **MINIMUM WAGE:** \$7.25 PER HOUR
- Ave. "Full Time" hours are 36 /wk
- * Monthly Income {after Taxes } : \$796.00

**The Average Monthly Budget of those
at the 100% Federal Poverty Threshold:**

Life's Basic Needs:

Rent	\$ 500.00
Heat	\$ 80.00
Electric	\$ 70.00
Water	\$ 60.00
Food	\$ 125.00
Transportation	\$ 100.00
Personal Care Items	\$ 25.00

TOTAL cost of monthly Bare Essentials:

\$ 960.00

(A DIFFERENCE OF \$164.00)



*chiseling away poverty;
building stable lives*

333 N. Main
South Bend, IN 46601
574.246.0364

Beverly Torres

ATTACHMENT KLO-5

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PETITION OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER)
COMPANY, AN INDIANA CORPORATION,)
FOR (1) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS)
RATES AND CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC)
UTILITY SERVICE THROUGH A PHASE IN)
RATE ADJUSTMENT; (2) APPROVAL OF:) CAUSE NO.
REVISED DEPRECIATION RATES;) 44967
ACCOUNTING RELIEF; INCLUSION IN)
BASIC RATES AND CHARGES OF QUALIFIED)
POLLUTION CONTROL PROPERTY, CLEAN)
ENERGY PROJECTS AND COST OF BRINGING)
I&M'S SYSTEM TO ITS PRESENT STATE OF)
EFFICIENCY; RATE ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM)
PROPOSALS; COST DEFERRALS; MAJOR)
STORM DAMAGE RESTORATION RESERVE AND)
DISTRIBUTION VEGETATION MANAGEMENT)
PROGRAM RESERVE; AND AMORTIZATIONS;)
AND (3) FOR APPROVAL OF NEW SCHEDULES)
OF RATES, RULES AND REGULATIONS)

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC FIELD HEARING

Public Field Hearing held on October 10, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.
(EDT) in the Calhoun Ballroom A of the Grand Wayne
Convention Center, 120 West Jefferson Boulevard,
Fort Wayne, Indiana, before Chairman James D. Atterholt,
Commissioner Sarah E. Freeman, Commissioner James F.
Huston, Commissioner Angela Rapp Weber, Commissioner
David E. Ziegner and Administrative Law Judge
David E. Veleta (Presiding)

INDEX OF WITNESSES

FOR THE PUBLIC:

Howard Traxmor:.B- 4 to B- 6

Kyle Miller:B- 7 to B- 10

Andrea Hamman:B- 11 to B- 13

Gordon Miller:B- 14 to B- 16

Patrick Ewing:B- 17 to B- 20

Louis Vosmeier:.B- 21 to B- 23

Ahnee Conner:.B- 24 to B- 26

Bob Bastian:B- 27 to B- 28

Brian Flory:B- 29 to B- 32

Rachel Reagan:B- 33 to B- 36

Taylor Crane:.B- 37 to B- 41

Cindy Mahler:.B- 42 to B- 44

Larry Gist:.B- 45 to B- 46

Rebeca Gonzalez:B- 47 to B- 50

Anthony Lardydell:B- 51 to B- 53

Edward Albert:B- 54 to B- 57

Kevin Olszowy:B- 58 to B- 60

Kathy Kalthoff:.B- 61 to B- 63

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Pamela Holder:B- 67 to B- 69

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Grace Strahm:.B-110 to B-111
Becky Kemp:.B-112 to B-113
Gabriel Gabriel:B-114 to B-116

ATTACHMENT KLO-6

Fort Wayne, Indiana
October 10, 2017
6:00 P.M. (EST)

(Reporter marked document for identification as
Public's Exhibit No. Fort Wayne FH-1)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DAVID E. VELETA

(THE COURT): This is a Field Hearing before the Indiana
Utility Regulatory Commission in a cause docketed before
the Commission as Cause No. 44967, a cause captioned as the
"Petition of Indiana Michigan Power Company, an Indiana
corporation, for (1) authority to increase its rates and
charges for electric utility service through a phase in
rate adjustment; (2) approval of: revised depreciation
rates; accounting relief; inclusion in basic rates and
charges of Qualified Pollution Control Property, Clean
Energy Projects and cost of bringing I&M's system to its
present state of efficiency; rate adjustment mechanism
proposals; cost deferrals; Major Storm Damage Restoration
Reserve and Distribution Vegetation Management Program
Reserve; and amortizations; and (3) for approval of new
schedules of rates, rules and regulations".

Notice of the time and place of the Field Hearing
was given as provided by law by publication in Marion
County in The Indianapolis Star on September 13th, 2017 and

1 in Allen County in The Journal Gazette on September 12th,
2 2017 and in The News-Sentinel on September 12th, 2017.

3 Each of said newspapers is a newspaper of general
4 circulation, printed and published in the English language,
5 and said publications were made at least ten days prior to
6 the date of the Field Hearing.

7 The proofs of publication of the notices have
8 been received by the Commission and are now incorporated
9 into the record of this cause by reference and placed in
10 the official files of the Commission.

11 Notice has also been given to the Indiana Office
12 of Utility Consumer Counselor and other interested parties.

13 May we have appearances, please?

14 MR. RANDALL C. HELMEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 On behalf of the Public, I'm Randall Helmen from
16 the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor.

17 MR. JEFFREY M. PEABODY: On behalf of Indiana
18 Michigan Power Company, Jeffrey Peabody with Barnes &
19 Thornburg LLP, Indianapolis, Indiana.

20 MS. JENNIFER A. WASHBURN: On behalf of Citizens
21 Action Coalition of Indiana, Indiana Community Action
22 Association, Indiana Coalition for Human Services, and
23 Sierra Club, whose Petition to Intervene is pending,
24 Jennifer Washburn, Indianapolis, Indiana.

25 THE COURT: Now, in a moment, Mr. Helmen is going

1 to call people up to speak, but first I need to swear
2 everyone in that's going to be speaking tonight; so
3 everyone that intends to speak, will you stand so you can
4 be sworn?

5

6 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO NUMEROUS PEOPLE)

7

8 THE COURT: Thank you.

9 Mr. Helmen, whenever you're ready.

10 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 I'm going to try to call people up in the order
12 in which they came.

13 Sorry about that. I'm going to call you up in
14 the order in which you signed up to speak. I would ask you
15 to come down here to the podium, and I'm going to ask you
16 to state your name and spell your name for the record, and
17 then, of course, you can make your comments.

18 So without further ado, we're going to start with
19 Mr. Howard Traxmor.

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25

1 **HOWARD TRAXMOR**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
2 Public, having been first duly sworn,
3 testified as follows:

4

5 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

6 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

7 Q Mr. Traxmor, would you, please, state your name and
8 spell your last name for the record?

9 A Howard Traxmor, T-r-a-x-m-o-r.

10 Q Thank you.

11 Go ahead.

12 A I'm speaking tonight to encourage the Commissioners to
13 move the process of the renewable energy revolution that's
14 going on now around the world, to move it forward quickly
15 by using the ratemaking process to put pressure on those
16 who have the money right now in the economy and that is the
17 corporations.

18 According to Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel prizewinner
19 in economics, the corporations have, and I'll read it
20 exactly as he states it, after-tax corporate profits as a
21 share of GDP have almost tripled in the last 30 years, and
22 over the same period of time, wages have been relatively
23 flat -- almost flat; so people don't have the money for
24 this increase that you're requesting.

25 On top of the flat wages, there's a crisis in

1 health care with prices going up, and we have record debt
2 in a consumer economy; so the economy is in really big
3 trouble, and this rate case could have a big impact on it.

4 So what I would propose is that the Commission
5 consider eliminating the minimum service charge altogether
6 and install a progressive rate structure that puts the
7 transition burden on the corporations that have the money
8 to pay for the transition, and I think you can justify this
9 on the severe crisis that the world is in environmentally,
10 and you could take the position that under normal
11 circumstances, you may not even consider such a radical
12 change, but given the crisis that we're in, at least you
13 could consider it.

14 I would also note that the Cook nuclear power
15 plant is essentially now bankrupt given that the whole
16 industry is going bankrupt, and putting more money into it
17 is -- such as government subsidies, would not be in our
18 interest. Indeed, many studies have shown now that we can
19 make a quick transition from the coal Rockport plant and
20 the Cook plant without government subsidy, and this has
21 been shown through a number of studies that you can
22 research through sources such as the Rocky Mountain
23 Institute.

24 The basic service charge is way too high from the
25 people I've talked with in the last year or two in

1 considering the -- this rate case, and people are hurting,
2 and I can tell you that from the many people I've talked
3 to; so thank you for considering that.

4 Q Thank you, Mr. Traxmor.

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(WITNESS HOWARD TRAXMOR EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll have Kyle Miller.

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3 **KYLE MILLER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

4 having been first duly sworn, testified as

5 follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

9 Q Mr. Miller, please state your name and spell your last
10 name for the record.

11 A Kyle Miller, M-i-l-l-e-r.

12 Q Go ahead, please.

13 A Thank you.

14 I rise today to speak in opposition to the rate
15 hikes outlined in Cause No. 44967, rate hikes that will for
16 the average household raise the total monthly bill by \$30
17 or more.

18 My first objection to the increase is the rapid
19 pace at which I&M sees fit to raise the cost of electricity
20 through them. It's interesting to me that our I&M bills
21 have increased by 62 percent in the last decade and by
22 36 percent in the last five years, and I begin to ask why
23 I&M feels comfortable asking for these rate increases when
24 in any other industry a company that consistently raises
25 prices on customers by this much would have gone out of

1 business by now, and in my opinion, it comes down to one
2 thing, and that is competition. If you need electric
3 service in our area, you have basically two options, you
4 have I&M or you can go with a form of renewable energy like
5 solar which for a lot of low- and middle-income families is
6 just not an option.

7 Now, sworn testimony by Toby Thomas, President
8 and COO of I&M, testified to this Commission that, and I
9 quote, "While Indiana currently has exclusive service areas
10 and is a vertically-integrated utility provider state, it
11 is not certain it will remain that way." In my opinion,
12 having I&M say, well, sure, we have you by the tail at this
13 point, but it's possible that could change some day doesn't
14 cut it as far as describing the competition that they face.

15 I&M has no problem continuing to ask for rate
16 hikes and additional fees because they know that we are a
17 captive audience. They provide us service for which there
18 is no one else to turn to.

19 My second objection to the increases in fees and
20 rates is what they would go to pay for. It's my
21 understanding that part of the reason for the request for
22 the revised fees is to pay off meters that were installed
23 only a short time ago in favor of new technology that I'm
24 sure won't be installed out of the goodness of I&M's heart,
25 and I suspect another appearance before the Commission will

1 be needed to cover the cost of those meters. In addition
2 to the meters, the new fees will be used to lessen the blow
3 of the bad investments that I&M continues to make in
4 facilities like the Rockport coal plant.

5 The costs they're looking to cover by raising our
6 monthly bills are simply a cost of doing business, a cost
7 that we should already be paying for with our current
8 monthly payments. The request before the Commission, I
9 feel, is a way to say, hey, we screwed up, and we don't
10 have enough money to fix our mistakes which is bull coming
11 from a company whose top five executives made almost a
12 combined \$25 million in 2016.

13 So as you're reading testimony and ultimately
14 making a decision on whether to allow I&M to continually
15 charge us more and more, I implore you to be our voice.
16 You're the voice of grandmothers and grandfathers,
17 low-income, high-income, commercial, and residential
18 customers. To I&M, we are just numbers; we're a means to
19 an end, a way to pay for the latest and greatest technology
20 that they should have been investing in well before now,
21 but you can be our voice.

22 It's up to you to say to a company that has a
23 stranglehold on our electric lives that we are not on the
24 hook for their mistakes, that we've given them more than
25 enough in the last ten years, and that we will not stand by

1 while I&M continues to reach into the pockets of customers
2 because they know we have nowhere else to turn.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 Q Thank you, Mr. Miller.

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25 **(WITNESS KYLE MILLER EXCUSED)**

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll call Andrea -- is it
2 Hamman?

3 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Does it start with a Th?

4 MR. HELMEN: I don't know. I'm having trouble
5 reading it. We'll go with that, though.

6 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: She may be out in the
7 hallway.

8 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: She's coming.

9 MR. HELMEN: We'll call the next one while we
10 wait for that one.

11 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: She's right here.

12 MR. HELMEN: Oh, okay.

13

14 **ANDREA HAMMAN**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
15 having been first duly sworn, testified as
16 follows:
17

18 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

19 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

20 A Hi.

21 Q Hi.

22 If you could state your name and spell your last
23 name for the record?

24 A My name is Andrea Hamman, A-n-d-r-e-a H-a-m-m-a-n.

25 Q Thank you, ma'am.

1 Go ahead.

2 A Thank you.

3 Hello. My name is Andrea Hamman, and I am an AEP
4 customer in Spencerville, Indiana. Thank you for taking
5 your time to listen to the evidence that this rate increase
6 is strongly opposed and for many reasons. I would also
7 like to thank my community here tonight for standing up for
8 what is right.

9 Personally, my home is powered by total electric.
10 My already high bill of almost \$300 will drastically
11 increase under this rate hike. Less disposable income will
12 negatively affect our local economy. I do not want that
13 for my community. My children are in public school which
14 is already struggling. This increase will dramatically
15 affect their budget also. This rate hike will not only
16 affect me but will disproportionately affect low- and
17 fixed-income customers, the elderly, non-profits, and
18 churches. I do not want this for my community.

19 I'm a steward of the earth, and if this rate
20 increase were to protect the environment by investing in
21 clean, renewable energy, I would be on board. The proposal
22 pushes consumers away from investing in clean energy and
23 punishes low-usage customers. This is a threat to my
24 children and my children's children.

25 This rate hike is only to benefit AEP and the

1 poor decisions they have made, investing in obsolete
2 meters, continuing to burn dirty coal at the health expense
3 of Hoosiers in southern Indiana, and flat out greed.

4 My understanding of your role as an appointed
5 Commissioner is to make decisions in the public's interest
6 and to ensure that utilities provide just and reasonable
7 rates.

8 Cause No. 44967 is not just nor reasonable. I
9 oppose 44967.

10 Thank you.

11 Q Thank you, ma'am.

12 A Can I submit my written comments?

13 Q Yes, thank you.

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25 (WITNESS ANDREA HAMMAN EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Gordon Miller.

2

3 **GORDON MILLER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

9 Q Hello, Mr. Miller.

10 If you could state your name and spell your last
11 name for the record?

12 A My name is Gordon Miller. Miller is spelled
13 M-i-l-l-e-r.

14 Q Go ahead.

15 A I'm very concerned about this, especially for people
16 at the present time that's raising children. You must
17 understand, children sometimes don't like to hear the words
18 we have to turn the t.v. off tonight at 9 o'clock or no
19 t.v. this afternoon.

20 Several years ago I was with a company outside
21 Allen County, and I told the family, there's a possibility
22 of being laid off. We're only working three days a week
23 this week or this period; so there will be no t.v. during
24 the daytime. I don't like to do things like that. Kids
25 love t.v., but it takes electricity.

1 At the present time, why don't the Indiana
2 Michigan Power Company cut their waste? We all waste. I'm
3 the man that goes out through the whole City on a bicycle
4 checking streetlights. I see lights on during the daytime.
5 Why? You mean to tell me you can't see during the daytime.
6 I can see people.

7 At the present time, you must understand that we
8 waste food, we waste water, electricity, gasoline, and all
9 kinds of gas. At the present time -- I was born in 1941.
10 At that time, if you wasted something, you didn't have
11 money the next month. Under every circumstance, if the
12 people in the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana would watch the
13 way they spend money -- My mother went to the grocery once
14 a month. Sure, we lived on a farm, but at the same time,
15 we had to buy things that you can't make yourself like
16 flour.

17 You must understand, I caught a man wasting
18 electricity in my house a few weeks ago, and do you think I
19 didn't tell him? I sure did. There's the front door, get
20 on it. I did the mean measure. This man right now owes me
21 almost \$3,000. At the present time and consideration,
22 that's waste. There's no room in my life for waste. If
23 you can't watch and balance your budget and know what
24 you're going to do four days in advance, you don't have a
25 good education as far as I'm concerned.

1 You need to understand, Indiana Michigan Power
2 Company was putting in pipelines downtown, and I've seen
3 people standing around doing nothing, twiddling their
4 thumbs. Why? And they were getting paid. You people are
5 getting paid.

6 At the present time, I'm working on just a little
7 over a thousand dollars a month trying to -- They
8 repossessed my pick-up truck. The other day I was riding
9 my bicycle from way north of town to the south, and at the
10 present time, I've got seven years on that bicycle with
11 9,000 miles. You need to understand, I ride all over the
12 City. Do I save gas? I had a man a couple summers ago
13 say, I bet you get better gas mileage than I do, but you
14 need to understand, waste will not save us money. I see
15 people in restaurants wasting food, but not at my house you
16 don't.

17 I'd like to thank you all for allowing me to
18 speak. Have a blessed day, and may the Lord bless every
19 one of you.

20 Q Thank you, Mr. Miller.

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25 (WITNESS GORDON MILLER EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll call Mr. Patrick Ewing.

2 Are you the basketball player?

3

4 **PATRICK EWING**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

5 having been first duly sworn, testified as

6 follows:

7

8 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

9 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

10 Q Good evening, Mr. Ewing.

11 A Good evening.

12 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
13 the record, sir.

14 A Patrick Ewing, E-w-i-n-g.

15 Q Thank you, sir.

16 Go ahead.

17 A My name is Patrick Ewing. I'm a homeowner and an I&M
18 customer here in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and I'm here to
19 oppose Indiana Michigan Power's requested rate hike in
20 Cause No. 44967.

21 I&M's monthly electric bills have increased by
22 62 percent since 2007. Yet, despite this, they want an
23 additional 25 percent on the base rate and a ridiculous
24 147 percent increase to the fixed rate. The total bill
25 increase will average over \$300 per year per residential

1 customer. Indiana ratepayers, especially low-income
2 residents, cannot afford this steep hike.

3 This is a rate hike designed to protect profits
4 and insulate shareholders from I&M's bad decisions. For
5 example, they chose to install technologically obsolete
6 meters just a few years ago. Now they want us to pay to
7 rip them out and put in smart meters that they should have
8 put in in the first place. This is wrong. We shouldn't
9 pay for their bad decisions. This should come out of the
10 company profits as it would in a competitive industry.

11 The worst part, though, is the outrageous
12 increase they've requested in the fixed charge,
13 147 percent. That's eye-popping, and it is unacceptable
14 for ratepayers. In Ohio last year, AEP claimed that
15 customers using net metering necessitated the much higher
16 fixed charges they wanted. The claim was absurd when one
17 learned that at the time less than a thousand of their
18 1.5 million customers in Ohio had net metering. In
19 Indiana, they can't even use that excuse, though, because
20 SB 309 was signed into law, and they've already won the net
21 metering fight.

22 So what this is really about, I believe, is
23 resurrecting a fight that the electric utilities lost
24 decades ago. They want at least a portion of their
25 distribution charges or costs to be covered in the fixed

1 charges, a position that most state regulators in the
2 United States explicitly rejected when they held hearings
3 as part of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of
4 1978. Fixed charges are only intended to cover costs like
5 billing, collection, and meter reading. As such,
6 electrical utilities in most states, and indeed almost all
7 electrical utilities in the world, bundle distribution
8 costs into the per kilowatt hour usage charge. This is as
9 it should be.

10 In the long run, bigger users of electric power
11 create greater demands on the grid and thus should pay more
12 in distribution costs. It's also more consistent with how
13 competitive firms in any industry must price their
14 products. Production, transportation, and retail costs are
15 covered by per unit prices. Moreover, increasing fixed
16 costs like this will send the wrong signals to the
17 marketplace. Low usage customers will be
18 disproportionately affected, and, of course, these are
19 often low-income customers. It also disincentivizes
20 conservation, saving energy has less impact on one's
21 overall electric bill, and finally, it disincentivizes
22 customer-based energy production like small scale solar and
23 wind.

24 In conclusion, I&M's bills for Indiana residents
25 have already been rising steadily in recent years. The

1 rate hike they're now requesting is not justified and is
2 meant to protect shareholders from I&M's mistakes. In
3 particular, the fixed income residents cannot afford this
4 rate hike, and the enormous increase in the fixed rate is
5 even less justified. Historically, the distribution costs
6 are not covered by fixed rates and shouldn't be.

7 Please reject this requested rate hike.

8 Thank you.

9 Q Thank you, Mr. Ewing.

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(WITNESS PATRICK EWING EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we're going to call
2 Louis Vosmeier.

3

4 **LOUIS VOSMEIER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
5 Public, having been first duly sworn,
6 testified as follows:

7

8 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

9 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

10 Q Good evening.

11 A Good evening.

12 Q Please state your name and spell your last name, sir.

13 A Louis Vosmeier, V, as in Victor, o-s-m-e-i-e-r.

14 Q You can go ahead and state your comments.

15 A I am in opposition to the rate increase, and I would
16 like to speak for the seniors, the retired people, people
17 on fixed incomes, single mothers that worry about where the
18 next dime is coming from.

19 Right now people are deciding whether to spend
20 their money on food or spend their money on needed medicine
21 or cut the medicine in half, and in order to not make this
22 worse, a rejection of this proposal is necessary just
23 because the infrastructure which I&M wants to spend this
24 rate increase on is not, how do I want to say this, viable.

25 They lack the forethought in the budgeting.

1 There was nothing internal in the company as far as
2 continuous improvement, whether it be the meters, whether
3 it be the power plants. There was no problem-solving going
4 on. All this could have been taken care of.

5 I would be interested to see what the profits
6 were, not what the expected profits were but what the
7 actual profits were, because the upper management, lower
8 management, mid level, all the way up to the CEO, still got
9 their bonuses, and as we all know, in the corporate world,
10 upwards to 100 to 150 percent of their yearly salary comes
11 in bonuses.

12 If there was that much profitability and the
13 bonuses were coming forth, why wasn't it spent in a more
14 viable and more conscientious manner to head these problems
15 off before they got there? You can't make me believe that
16 they didn't know it was coming. You can make me believe
17 that they didn't care, and they were going to get the
18 bonuses and raises no matter what -- no matter what came
19 down the line.

20 It seems to me that a regular business in a
21 competitive business, bonuses, raises, would have dropped
22 off in order to invest in the company to keep it running,
23 to keep it vibrant, and to provide a service to its
24 customers. Customer satisfaction is the most important
25 thing, and as a customer of I&M, I am not satisfied, and I

1 don't believe many people are satisfied.

2 I'm in vehement opposition to this and so are the
3 seniors, the retired people, the people that have to choose
4 between medication and food. An extra \$30 a month, what
5 are they going to choose now? Do I get my medication? Do
6 I cut my medication in half? How does a single mother
7 who's trying to feed her children and trying to hold down
8 maybe a part-time job or sometimes a full-time job, how do
9 they make it? So you're making it more difficult each and
10 every day, and it is a no-win situation.

11 Thank you for listening.

12 Q Thank you, Mr. Vosmeier.

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25 **(WITNESS LOUIS VOSMEIER EXCUSED)**

1 MR. HELMEN: Next I'm calling Ahnee Conner.

2

3 **AHNEE CONNER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

4 having been first duly sworn, testified as

5 follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

9 Q Good evening.

10 A Hello.

11 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
12 the record.

13 A Ahnee Conner, last name C-o-n-n-e-r.

14 Q Thank you.

15 Go ahead.

16 A Well, it's ironic that I'm following the gentleman
17 that just spoke because I'm one of those senior citizens
18 living on a fixed income. I'm a widow, and my electric
19 bills are already exorbitant.

20 The house that I live in has the type of electric
21 heat that is extremely expensive in the winter, and even
22 though I make everybody wear a sweater, and we keep the
23 thermostat turned down like people should, my electric bill
24 alone in the cold winter months is upwards of \$600 and
25 sometimes more than \$600 a month. That's just -- It's not

1 tenable and to imagine that there's going to be a rate
2 increase on top of that is unimaginable.

3 I also serve on the Board of a non-profit that is
4 a homeless shelter for -- it's an emergency shelter for
5 homeless families, and I know from the guests who are in
6 our shelter that many of them have fallen on hard times
7 because of losing a job or having a sick child. We all
8 know many of the causes of homelessness, but when we try to
9 help them get back into transitional housing when they
10 leave our shelter, it's up to us to help them pay for
11 their -- to get the electricity turned on, to get the first
12 month -- sometimes more than the first couple of months of
13 utilities paid.

14 This all comes out of the budget for our
15 non-profit, and that's very expensive. I mean, we just --
16 we -- not only can they not afford it, but our non-profit
17 can't afford another rate increase.

18 The other point I'd like to make is my extreme
19 opposition to maintaining these coal-fired plants. I'm
20 glad I don't live in southern Indiana because I don't have
21 to put up with the respiratory ailments and illnesses that
22 those families have to suffer because of the coal plants.

23 I very much want to see Indiana transition to
24 renewable sources of energy or at the very least natural
25 gas which is less expensive than electricity anyway.

1 Thank you.

2 Q Thank you very much.

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(WITNESS AHNEE CONNER EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next I'm going to call Bob Bastian.

2

3 **BOB BASTIAN**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

4 having been first duly sworn, testified as

5 follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

9 Q Welcome.

10 Please state your name and spell your last name
11 for the record, sir.

12 A My name is Bob Bastian, B-a-s-t-i-a-n, and I've lived
13 in this area since 1965.

14 Some of the things -- I didn't plan to speak
15 until I got here, but if you're going to increase the
16 individual homeowners', the utility bill, 30 percent,
17 what's it going to do to businesses? They're going to back
18 off. I've owned seven businesses. They will back off, and
19 you won't be seeing these factories coming here and
20 employing people.

21 The other thing I've wondered is, in Ohio we've
22 got wind farms. Over from where -- I'm on the west side of
23 the State, and they've got wind farms. They even got 'em
24 in Hawaii, down on the South Point going south off the Big
25 Island. They work; they're efficient. They don't kill the

1 animals, okay, and the farmers get paid to have 'em there.

2 Plus, the other point, why don't we use more
3 solar power? Because if you go up around Waterloo,
4 Indiana, there is a lot of solar panels sitting in a field
5 out there. If those could be used, we wouldn't have to
6 come back on us individuals and tax us this extra tax.

7 And then I didn't think of this until I got -- I
8 don't have the name of it, but there's a company in the
9 Midwest here who's developed a way to get energy and stuff
10 out of the earth, out of the solar, the middle of the earth
11 where the -- where they drill maybe 18 inches down. Has
12 anybody ever thought of seeing what that is? I just
13 noticed it the other day on the Internet, but that might be
14 a way we look at it because they said there's enough there
15 for 30,000 years, and I don't think I'm going to live that
16 long.

17 I appreciate your time, and thank you.

18 Q Thank you, Mr. Bastian.

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25 **(WITNESS BOB BASTIAN EXCUSED)**

1 MR. HELMEN: Next up is Brian Flory.

2

3 **BRIAN FLORY**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

4 having been first duly sworn, testified as

5 follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

9 Q Mr. Flory, would you state your name and spell your
10 last name for the record?

11 A Yes.

12 It's B-r-i-a-n F-l-o-r-y.

13 Q Thank you.

14 Go ahead, sir.

15 A I serve as a pastor here in Fort Wayne. Good evening,
16 and thank you all for hearing my testimony.

17 One dollar per day. That is the approximate
18 amount that we've been hearing that this rate increase will
19 cost the average household. One dollar a day. It doesn't
20 seem like it would be very much, does it? It's the amount
21 if you were to park on the street here in downtown Fort
22 Wayne that you would pay for a couple of hours or if you go
23 into the store and pick up a candy bar or a bottled water,
24 but one dollar a day is also \$30 a month. One dollar a day
25 is also \$365 per year. For some people that is a month's

1 car payment or a substantial amount of a mortgage or a
2 rental payment. From a monthly standpoint, for some people
3 that's the cost of a prescription medication or a grocery
4 trip for a week.

5 You can see how quickly this money adds up,
6 especially, as has already been mentioned, for senior
7 citizens on a fixed income or for persons who already
8 struggle to make ends meet. Is it fair to add to the
9 difficult financial choices that many of our neighbors
10 already struggle to make?

11 As a Christian pastor, my heart and mind goes out
12 to these at-risk populations who will face a substantial
13 increase in their electric bills. I'm also concerned about
14 the impact this dramatic increase will have on my faith
15 community and others here in Fort Wayne. Every dollar that
16 we send to Indiana Michigan Power is one less dollar that
17 we can use to care for the people right here in Fort Wayne
18 and across the State of Indiana. Fort Wayne is known as
19 the City of Churches and is becoming known as the City of
20 Faiths, and for faith communities of all type, these rate
21 increases significantly impact the ministries that we are
22 able to provide.

23 As an example, my congregation is part of the
24 Associated Churches Food Bank system. We have an average
25 of 30 to 35 people -- different people per week who come

1 every Wednesday morning to get perishable and non-
2 perishable food items for free. It's not out of the realm
3 of a given week that we'll have as many as 50 people who
4 come. This average of 30 to 35 people represents 120 to
5 140 people in households, and that's just in a small part
6 of the near northeast side of the City. Adding \$30 more
7 per month to a stressed budget for households who are
8 already struggling to know from where they'll get their
9 daily bread and to the congregations and other faith
10 communities who are serving them is a deeply troubling
11 concern.

12 Last week, I met with two representatives from
13 Indiana Michigan Power, and I am grateful for the time that
14 they spent helping me to understand more about their
15 Petition. When asked about the increase, I will give them
16 credit that they shared my concern about its impact upon
17 our most vulnerable neighbors, and while I am strongly
18 supportive of the company's efforts to end their Rockport
19 plant lease in the next several years, I am also deeply
20 concerned about the depreciation costs being passed on to
21 the ratepayer. When asked about how much the company will
22 bear the depreciation costs versus the customer, they could
23 not give me an answer which may be an answer in and of
24 itself.

25 Indiana Michigan Power owes it to its customers

1 to be transparent and conscientious in its rate requests as
2 well as to be moving expeditiously towards 21st century
3 technologies that allow us to have reliable, sustainable
4 electricity to meet the needs of a growing populace. The
5 company must do better, and it can do better, and it's up
6 to all of us, including them, to expect them to do better.

7 Thank you.

8 Q Thank you, Mr. Flory.

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(WITNESS BRIAN FLORY EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll call Rachel Reagan.

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3 **RACHEL REAGAN**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

9 Q Good evening.

10 A Good evening.

11 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
12 the record, ma'am.

13 A My name is Rachel Reagan, and my last name is spelled
14 R-e-a-g-a-n.

15 Q Thank you, ma'am.

16 A Okay. I am opposed to the Cause 44967. I'm here
17 because some of my neighbors work two jobs or second shift
18 or are disempowered because of their age. Some of my
19 neighbors are barely scraping by, and an increase in
20 necessary expenses forces a choice between keeping the
21 lights on and how much food they can buy or picking which
22 medicines they will be able to fill this month. Some
23 people in this city already stand in food lines and
24 assistance offices. If you raise these necessary utilities
25 beyond a reasonable cost, the burden will leave people with

1 no choice but to take out loans for living expenses or to
2 be able to pay their bills at all.

3 We can't stand by while we are -- But we can't
4 stand where we are on this issue because we are poisoning
5 ourselves. Studies over the last decade have linked air
6 pollution to higher infant death rates, decreased birth
7 weight, impaired children's lung development, autism
8 spectrum disorder, possible psychiatric conditions, deadly
9 asthmatic conditions, accelerated hardening of the arteries
10 which causes heart attacks and strokes, cancer, migraines,
11 acid rain, smog, damage to plants and particulate matter.

12 It has been estimated by the World Health
13 Organization that 3 million people die per year due to
14 outdoor particulate matter/air pollution exposures.
15 According to estimates I could find, one coal plant emits
16 83,000 tons of sulfur dioxide, 23,000 tons of nitrogen
17 oxide, thousands of pounds of mercury, arsenic, and lead,
18 and endangers employees and their families with exposure to
19 asbestos; while I&M earned, from what I understand,
20 \$1.8 billion in 2015.

21 If we are spending money on infrastructure,
22 shouldn't it be the long-term, sustainable, high return on
23 investment kind? Why are satellites able to run on solar
24 for decades? And there is enough sun on 1.2 percent of the
25 Sahara to power the entire planet. Why is Germany able to

1 reach 85 percent of all energy usage created by renewables?

2 Are we repealing the Clean Power Plan?

3 Based on data from Stanford University, The
4 Solutions Project.org shows us a plan where we could
5 transition Indiana to 100 percent renewable by 2050
6 creating 119,000 construction jobs and 47,000 operation
7 jobs.

8 Elon Musk says that we can fix -- that he can fix
9 Puerto Rico's energy crisis with photovoltaic batteries.
10 How will this change affect our situation? New
11 photovoltaic capacity grew by 50 percent in 2016, and it
12 was the fastest growing energy source in the world in 2016
13 according to the International Energy Agency. Even Saudi
14 Arabia wants to invest \$50 billion in 30 renewable projects
15 over ten years so they can transport their oil and
16 diversify their income.

17 Scott Pruitt on Monday announced that the federal
18 tax credits for wind and solar should be eliminated. Will
19 we eliminate the tax credits that the coal industry enjoys
20 as well? In the coal industry, reserve depletion is
21 profound, says coal consultant Alan Stagg. Quote, mining
22 conditions are difficult, and the cost to produce is high.
23 Those costs have risen 9 percent per year since 2005. Many
24 coal mines are declaring or have declared bankruptcy or are
25 shutting down mines and laying off workers who have many

1 health problems due to this dangerous work.

2 Finally, infrastructure. Imagine a project
3 replacing low-income homes that need new roofs with tesla
4 solar glass tiles which are so durable they are warrantied
5 for the lifetime of the house or, as they say, infinity,
6 whichever comes first, and -- because they are made with
7 tempered glass and are more than three times stronger than
8 standard roofing tiles.

9 If AEP wanted to invest back into the community,
10 that would be a way that they wouldn't have to buy land for
11 their solar farms. It should go without saying that the
12 company should not try to recoup the losses from a bad
13 business decision by depleting the resources of those least
14 able to afford it, but now we are coming to the precipice
15 over which the energy industry is willing to throw
16 themselves after coal instead of moving on and investing in
17 something new.

18 Thank you.

19 Q Thank you, Ms. Reagan.

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25 (WITNESS RACHEL REAGAN EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Your Honor, next we call
2 Taylor Crane.

3

4 **TAYLOR CRANE**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
5 having been first duly sworn, testified as
6 follows:

7

8 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

9 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

10 Q Good evening, Mr. Crane.

11 A Hello.

12 Q State your name and spell your last name for the
13 record, please.

14 A Taylor Crane. The last name is spelled C-r-a-n-e.

15 I thank you all for joining us today. I know it
16 takes a lot out of your day.

17 As a homeowner, a business owner, and also a,
18 what I like to call myself, a social activist, I oppose
19 these rate hikes. As a homeowner, I recently acquired the
20 estate of my grandfather from his passing. I also lease
21 out three places for income. These leases that I have, the
22 people that I rent to, they are responsible for their
23 utility bills, and in return, that will cause them to be --
24 their money is going to be more difficult.

25 Working as a social activist, I've also worked in

1 the homeless population here in Fort Wayne more so with the
2 at risk of being homeless population which is the
3 population that doesn't necessarily get as much attention
4 as the homeless population. These are individuals mostly
5 between the ages of 18 and 25 who don't have the means to
6 pay for an apartment.

7 The City of Fort Wayne has been known for having
8 some of the lowest costs out of the entire nation, and
9 still in the City of Fort Wayne, we have young individuals,
10 such as myself, the same age as myself, I'm only 24-years
11 old, who cannot pay for rate hikes such as this. They
12 can't pay the rates they have now.

13 Fortunately, my electric bill is only \$52 on
14 average a month throughout the year. Most of my stuff is
15 powered through gas, but with this rate hike, I'll see a
16 hike of \$30. Now, I can pay that, but a lot of people that
17 I work with, a lot of people I know, they can't; they will
18 not be able to pay it. It will severely impact their
19 lives; they will be living on the street.

20 I do thank the IURC for the work that they have
21 done because I have been able to use protections that you
22 guys have put in place to protect them during the winter
23 months, and I ask for you to protect the young people of
24 this State because it has seemed like time and time again
25 that Indiana Michigan Power has just been getting their

1 way. They have been getting their way with every -- with
2 almost everything that they want to do through lobbying and
3 through whatever means that they can legally go through.

4 I don't like seeing suffering. This is the City
5 of Churches, and I see a lot of suffering, and a lot of
6 suffering that I see is people not being able to pay their
7 bills, people not being able to pay for their medications.
8 When I heard -- I heard two individuals speak -- elderly
9 individuals speak about paying for prescriptions and
10 cutting pills in half. That is a thing here in Fort Wayne.

11 My grandfather lived off of \$1,200 a month from
12 his social security. There were times when he didn't know
13 if he could pay for his prescriptions because of his
14 utility bills, and it was partially because he didn't
15 understand how to make his home more energy efficient which
16 I ended up doing. The house that I live in was the house
17 that he lived in, and it used to have a bill of roughly \$98
18 a month where I've averaged it down to \$52 a month.

19 If this does pass, I'll practically put my work
20 behind -- my work to make my home more energy efficient
21 behind. I want to put solar power on my home, but at this
22 point, it's almost -- there's no reason -- there's very
23 little reason for me to do it anymore.

24 Instead of increasing rates -- As someone who
25 leases, if I make a poor business decision by leasing my

1 property to somebody, I am accountable for that. I am
2 accountable for leasing my property -- for making poor
3 business decisions if they are not good tenants; for
4 instance, if I don't do background checks, if I don't do
5 credit checks, if I don't look into that person in how they
6 go about their lives. I am responsible for leasing that
7 property, and so how is I&M putting the responsibility of
8 Rockport on us? It's unethical; it's unreasonable, and it
9 shouldn't be happening.

10 I'm making sure that I'm covering everything that
11 I thought about. I didn't have the time to write down
12 everything.

13 We need to focus more on renewable energy. Why
14 is Indiana always the state to do everything last? We are
15 always behind. Ohio is further than us. They have
16 windmills for gosh sake. We need to be focused more on
17 energy efficiency. We need to focus more on sustainable
18 energy. We need to focus more on clean energy. We are
19 killing this planet.

20 Elon Musk at his solar roof expose, whatever you
21 want to call it, unveiling, it blew my mind away the
22 numbers that he gave. We are at an incline on CO2
23 emissions. That means that we -- During the winter, we
24 usually have a decline; we'll have an incline and we'll
25 have a decline, but if you look at the maps that were

1 presented that day, we are at a strict incline. It does
2 not go down anymore because of the amount of CO2 that we
3 are putting into our atmosphere.

4 Again, I thank you for your time today, and,
5 Huston, I -- I am trained in noticing people's body
6 language, and I appreciate you. I can tell that you are
7 really absorbing today, and I appreciate it, and so thank
8 you.

9 Q Thank you, Mr. Crane.

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(WITNESS TAYLOR CRANE EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Your Honor, next we call
2 Kimberly Koczan.

3 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: She just walked out. She
4 just left.

5 MR. HELMEN: How about while we're waiting for
6 her to come back, we've got Cindy Mahler.

7

8 **CINDY MAHLER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
9 having been first duly sworn, testified as
10 follows:

11

12 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

13 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

14 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
15 the record, ma'am.

16 A Hi.

17 I'm Cindy Mahler, M-a-h-l-e-r.

18 Q Go ahead.

19 A I wasn't planning on speaking tonight so if I get off
20 topic, I apologize. I wanted to let you know that I do
21 reject this proposal on behalf of myself, my clients, and
22 where I work. I'm the payee Director at the Wayne Township
23 Trustee Office. I represent 100 clients who are all
24 disabled, not one of them is not disabled, not one of them
25 is capable of handling their own financial situations. We

1 pay their bills out of their social security money that
2 comes to us.

3 One time I sat down and figured out how many of
4 my clients paid more than half of their income on their
5 shelter alone, and it was more than 50 percent of our
6 clients. A lot of my clients try and get by on 735 a
7 month. The majority are living under poverty level. The
8 majority of them do not own a home; they rent. Many of
9 them can't afford any rate increase.

10 It's preposterous to me that people who are
11 making large sums of income could in good conscience
12 propose a 20 percent rate hike for any reason. That's
13 outrageous; that's unacceptable. It puts an undue burden
14 on all the taxpayers. If you know anything about the
15 Trustee Office, 100 percent of our funding comes from the
16 homeowners in our township. So part of -- Anyone who owns
17 a home, their income is going to also support the people
18 who don't have enough; so they're going to get hit twice.

19 It's going to really change the lifestyle of the
20 people that I work for. They scrape by in an unreasonable
21 way. I feel -- My heart goes out to them. You know, a lot
22 of times I get to go out for a meal and go to a restaurant
23 or go to a movie. They don't get that. They don't have
24 that opportunity.

25 It's just not right, and I just wanted to thank

1 you for the time to let me know -- to let you know that I
2 feel that this is very unreasonable, very unjust, and
3 totally unacceptable.

4 Thank you.

5 Q Thank you, Ms. Mahler.

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25 **(WITNESS CINDY MAHLER EXCUSED)**

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll call Kimberly Koczan.

2 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: She had to leave for her
3 child care.

4 MR. HELMEN: Then we'll next go to Larry Gist or
5 Gist.

6

7 **LARRY GIST**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
8 having been first duly sworn, testified as
9 follows:

10

11 A Gist.

12 Q Gist.

13 Good evening.

14 A How you doing?

15 Q Fine.

16 A My name is Larry Gist, G-i-s-t.

17 Q Got it, thank you.

18 A You hit on -- A lot of things what I'm going to say is
19 going to be like repeated. I'm here representing my
20 organization, and I was just thinking about my
21 organization. You know, we represent discrimination and
22 injustice, and I was just trying to figure out where can I
23 categorize this under, and I think this would fall under
24 environmental injustice. With this rate hike, it would be
25 an environmental injustice.

1 I'm one of those on a fixed income, okay, and I
2 represent a whole lot of people that's on a fixed income,
3 and \$30 a month would do something economically to me. You
4 know, I'm one of those that's on medication. I need my
5 medication. To just come out here tonight, I had to take
6 an extra pill.

7 I'm just saying that to me, please consider not
8 doing this because this would have an effect on a whole lot
9 of people, and I mean more or less the people that are on a
10 fixed income, those that are on social security and don't
11 even get a retirement check, but they get a fixed income of
12 maybe \$1,200 or even less, and this \$30 a month would have
13 an issue with them, especially those that don't have
14 insurance to even cover their medication.

15 So, please, consider not doing this, and the
16 organization that I represent, we get a lot of complaints;
17 so, please, I don't want to get a pile of complaints for
18 environmental injustice.

19 Thank you.

20 Q Thank you, sir.

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25 (WITNESS LARRY GIST EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next I'll call Rebeca Gonzalez.

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3 **REBECA GONZALEZ**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
4 Public, having been first duly sworn,
5 testified as follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

9 Q Name, rank, and serial number; sorry.

10 A Like that's not what you said before.

11 Rebeca Gonzalez, Rebeca with one c,
12 G-o-n-z-a-l-e-z.

13 Q And it says here that you're representing -- speaking
14 on behalf of Bravas Foods?

15 A Bravas Food LLC, yep.

16 Q Go ahead.

17 A Thank you for the opportunity to speak here tonight.
18 As a small business owner and participant in the busiest of
19 local establishments, I am concerned by Indiana Michigan
20 Power's request for a rate increase for the follow reasons:
21 either financial reasons, the protection of local
22 interests, and a prevention of big business masking their
23 poor practices as good investments for our community.

24 First off, the rate increase is drastic and
25 excessive. Running a restaurant requires a lot of energy

1 to keep refrigerators and freezers running 24 hours a day,
2 the lights on, and keeping the building cool enough in the
3 summer and warm enough in the winter. Our electric bills
4 are already hundreds of dollars a month, and if the rate
5 case is approved, our monthly electric bill will be more
6 than one month of rent.

7 Small businesses like ours can't be expected to
8 grow and thrive in an environment that caters to big
9 businesses and their bottom lines. Not only is this a
10 direct hit to small businesses in our community, but it
11 places a burden on the low- and fixed-income members of our
12 community as well. Again, how can we expect those who
13 struggle the most to come out on top when the interests of
14 million-dollar companies come before their own?

15 If approved, Indiana Michigan Power will rake in
16 an additional \$263 million a year, money that Hoosiers will
17 no longer have to help build and support our local
18 economies. Instead, our hard earned money will go towards
19 supporting a monopoly that holds its own interests above
20 those of its customers.

21 At Bravas, we are proud to support local farmers,
22 artists, and businesses. Community competition is
23 something we believe in and have seen firsthand how amazing
24 it is when local businesses work together to create
25 something bigger than themselves.

1 Indiana Michigan Power would like us to think
2 that they care about their customers and our community. By
3 their lack of transparency and misleading information, they
4 trick customers into thinking they are getting a good deal.
5 Their Building the Future plan is a perfect example of how
6 they twist information to make it look like their customers
7 are coming out on top. The plan presents information in a
8 way that makes it look like wind and solar already make up
9 a great deal of our energy mix when in reality they make up
10 very little, and what about their plans to add more
11 renewables to the mix? Where is that in their plan?

12 The plan mentions how new smart meters they want
13 to install will benefit their customers; however, they
14 don't mention that these meters will replace meters they
15 installed only a few years ago and that their customers
16 will be paying for the accelerated depreciation of the old
17 meters.

18 They don't talk about how their own 20-year
19 energy plan shows that a move to renewables was not only
20 possible but cheaper than keeping their super polluting
21 Rockport plant running. Why are they asking customers to
22 keep paying for their decision to invest in an aging coal
23 plant? Their coal plant, their problem, not ours.

24 Indiana Michigan Power claims that their Building
25 the Future plan is about improving the communities they

1 serve, but it seems to be more about improving their bottom
2 line and pushing their bad business decisions on to their
3 customers.

4 We need to stop allowing big businesses to
5 privatize their profits and socialize their losses. We
6 need to start investing in our communities and stop putting
7 the biggest burdens on our most vulnerable friends and
8 neighbors.

9 Commissioners, I am asking you to please reject
10 Indiana Michigan Power's request in Cause No. 44967.

11 Thank you.

12 Q Thank you, Ms. Gonzalez.

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(WITNESS REBECA GONZALEZ EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Forgive me, I'm sure I'll
2 mispronounce this name, but our next speaker is
3 Anthony Lardydell?

4 WITNESS LARDYDELL: Yes.

5 MR. HELMEN: All right.

6

7 **ANTHONY LARDYDELL**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
8 Public, having been first duly sworn,
9 testified as follows:

10

11 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

12 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

13 A Okay, I was speaking and having --

14 Q Excuse me, could you state your name and spell your
15 last name for the record?

16 A My name is Anthony Lardydell. It's L-a-r-d-y-d-e-l-l.

17 Q Very good, thank you.

18 A Okay, I want to speak because raising the rates is --

19 raising the money isn't right for low income because we

20 live in the low income. We don't want our rates to go up

21 because we live -- because not many people make as much

22 money like they used to, and people -- and every day people

23 are losing too many jobs today.

24 We need to lower our rates and save our money

25 because when you raise the rates, we're not saving our

1 money so much because we've got to save some money
2 besides -- besides for our electric bill, we need to save
3 money for food and living and other things.

4 Please don't -- And we've got to save money
5 because there's a lot of low-income people here. There are
6 a lot of -- Less people -- There's a lot of middle age
7 classes or senior citizens and people with disability
8 because we can't -- Don't -- Don't raise the rates anymore
9 because we need to have our -- to have our -- our money for
10 other things besides electricity like trips and stuff
11 because we want to save our money -- we've got to save our
12 money for -- to save our money for a lot of things
13 besides -- for food, housing, and other things besides
14 electricity.

15 Please don't take -- don't raise the rate because
16 we -- because there are people who are on low -- on fixed
17 income or are out of jobs right now. Please -- People here
18 in this building -- in this room right now -- That woman
19 was saying, she said she -- she has a job that -- she --
20 there are people working for these companies who are trying
21 to keep their -- trying to keep their money -- save their
22 money to where they can do things -- do a lot of fun things
23 in the City of Fort Wayne, not just paying bills. We need
24 to do a lot of fun things, too, but we need to keep rates
25 down.

1 I oppose this -- this -- this raise in rates
2 because if you raise the rates, it's going to take all the
3 fun away and everything because -- And you know what I'm
4 talking about, and that's it.

5 Q Thank you.

6 THE COURT: Thank you.

7 We're going to take a brief five-minute recess.

8 Let's go off the record.

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10 (Off the Record)

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15 **(WITNESS ANTHONY LARDYDELL EXCUSED)**

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20 (RECESS)

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25 (HEARING IN RECESS UNTIL 7:25 P.M., SAME DAY)

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Fort Wayne, Indiana
October 10, 2017
7:25 P.M. (EST)

THE COURT: Let's go back on the record.

MR. HELMEN: Thank you very much. We appreciate your patience, and we're glad you're still here with us.

If I call somebody's name and you know that they're no longer here, if you could just let me know, but we'll stay here for as long as people want to talk.

So next we're going to call Edward Albert.

THE COURT: Everyone, if you could make sure that you speak loudly into the microphone, our Court Reporter told me that she was having trouble hearing some of the speakers.

Thank you.

EDWARD ALBERT, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION,

QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:

Q Please state your name and spell your last name for the record.

A Good evening.

1 My name is Ed Albert. My last name is spelled
2 A-l-b-e-r-t.

3 Q Thank you.

4 A First off, I want to thank the committee and all of
5 you for being here tonight and allowing us an opportunity
6 to speak on this topic.

7 I'm speaking out tonight because I'm opposed to
8 these rate increases that they're requesting in Cause
9 No. 44967.

10 I'm a homeowner, and I live in a rural area of
11 Adams County. I have a total electric home because there
12 is no other choice down there. I like electric; it's very
13 good. Electricity at point of use is very efficient for
14 heating. All of the electricity is generated at a single
15 point. It's easier to control emissions and things of that
16 nature; so I don't have an issue with being total electric.

17 Because my family has some allergy and health
18 issues, we're also required -- we run our air conditioning
19 any time we're not running the heat; so my electric usage
20 is probably a lot more than most people. As a matter of
21 fact, last year I used a little over 27,000 kilowatt hours.
22 I average about 2,500 kilowatt hours a month. So my -- my
23 expenses are probably a little higher than most.

24 Thankfully, I'm blessed that I'm not on a fixed
25 income, but I&M is my only choice, and if there was a --

1 truly an open market and other choices, I think that there
2 would be a greater incentive for them to remain sharp and
3 efficient in their operations, but with no competition, it
4 simply isn't there.

5 The IURC is my only hope; you are my advocate to
6 help keep these rates fair. Riders, trackers, riders,
7 trackers. I brought an example of my January 2017 bill.
8 My bill was \$533. I have over \$100 worth of trackers on
9 this bill.

10 One of these that I see here is this energy
11 efficiency program cost. This was enacted a long time ago,
12 and I've paid freely into this. I support it. I've done
13 my part. My home is very -- as efficient as possible for
14 the age of the home, very well insulated, good windows. We
15 have CFLs and LEDs and all kinds of things. We do our
16 part. I'm on the water heater program and all this. I've
17 done my part. With this energy efficiency program, I'm
18 asking why are rates not staying flat or going down? Why
19 are they going up? It doesn't make sense to me.

20 I feel that this fixed charge is not fair. It's
21 going to overly punish those on a fixed income. Again,
22 fortunately, I'm blessed that I'm not on a fixed income,
23 but there are many that are. Other people have outlined
24 very good reasons why that's going to stress those people.

25 This rate increase that they're asking for, I

1 don't feel is fair. Their company is highly profitable.
2 So what's the justification for that? We certainly
3 shouldn't pay for bad business decisions. Any business
4 bears the brunt of their own decisions. They don't just
5 pass them on to consumers. If there was truly competition
6 in this market, yeah, you would see a difference there, but
7 there isn't.

8 So, again, I'm asking you, the IURC, to be our
9 advocate and deny these requests, and that's all I have to
10 say tonight.

11 Again, I thank you for your time.

12 Q Thank you, Mr. Albert.

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25 (WITNESS EDWARD ALBERT EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Your Honor, next we call
2 Kevin Olszowy.

3

4 **KEVIN OLSZOWY**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
5 having been first duly sworn, testified as
6 follows:

7

8 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

9 **QUESTIONS BY MR. HELMEN:**

10 Q Thank you, sir.

11 Please state your name and spell your last name
12 for the record.

13 A My name is Kevin Olszowy. It's spelled O-l-s-z-o-w-y.

14 Q One more time.

15 A O-l-s-z-o-w-y.

16 Q Thank you, sir.

17 Go ahead.

18 A I came here to kind of represent my neighbor. He's an
19 older guy; he's 75, and I got to know him about three, four
20 years ago at the Laundromat, and he mainly took his clothes
21 there because he's on well water, and that's where I was
22 washing my clothes, too.

23 But anyway, the last couple of years, I've been
24 doing leaves for him because I know he's on a fixed income,
25 and then I found out that his 84-year old brother, he was

1 taking care of him. Now -- And his name is Larry, and I
2 never got a chance to see his brother, but I found this out
3 from the two neighbors that live on both sides of him, so
4 they're very aware of my story, but I was doing leaves one
5 night in the Fall, and this has been going on for a couple
6 of years, but Larry was -- did something that I thought was
7 really strange, and he was wearing one of these on his
8 head.

9 Now, I think he was really trying to cut his
10 electric bill down because I could see these lights shining
11 in the curtains from outside, and he even came to the front
12 door once with this on, and both the neighbors on both
13 sides of him are aware of this, but Larry ended up losing
14 his older brother about a year ago, and then the old lady
15 across the street who has been living in that neighborhood
16 for many years -- and I've known him since I moved in there
17 in 1993, and the neighbor across the street, an old lady,
18 they knew each other, and the older lady, I don't know if
19 she was providing him food or helping him out, but once a
20 couple Falls ago, he opened up his back window and handed
21 me a meal through the window which I thought was awful
22 strange, but anyway, I took it, but I just thought it was
23 kind of strange.

24 The thing that really drew attention to me was
25 that he was wearing this, and I was getting the impression

1 that he was trying to do everything he could to keep his
2 electric bill down because I don't know what that guy did
3 in that house, but he's never been married, but he was
4 doing everything he could to cut his bills down.

5 He told me he couldn't afford to pay me. I
6 wasn't expecting anything because I knew he was on a fixed
7 income. I've been doing his leaves for the last two or
8 three years, but anyway, he lost his brother a year ago,
9 and then the neighbor across the street, she passed away in
10 the Spring, but when I came back from my vacation in
11 August, he passed away about a week after I came back.

12 I just wanted to tell you guys what my story is
13 that I witnessed a senior citizen trying to do whatever he
14 could to keep his bills down, and he was wearing this
15 light, and I just thought I've never seen anybody wear
16 something like this on their head at his age.

17 That's basically my story.

18 Q Thank you, Mr. Olszowy.

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(WITNESS KEVIN OLSZOWY EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Your Honor, next we call
2 Kathy Kalthoff.

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4 **KATHY KALTHOFF**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
5 Public, having been first duly sworn,
6 testified as follows:

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8 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

9 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

10 Q Good evening.

11 A Hi.

12 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
13 the record.

14 A I'm Kathy Kalthoff. It's K-a-l-t-h-o-f-f.

15 Q Thank you, ma'am.

16 Go ahead.

17 A Thank you for allowing us to speak. I'm here tonight
18 to let you know I oppose this rate hike. I'm nervous, so I
19 apologize.

20 I am a single mother. I am one of the lucky
21 ones, though, because I have a decent job. I have always
22 paid my own way. I haven't had to use WIC or KAN-I or any
23 of those other services, but that's not to say I haven't
24 struggled. I have not had cable t.v. ever. I haven't had
25 the latest cell phones. I haven't had Internet until my

1 son had to have it for school.

2 We've struggled at times. You know, I've had to
3 tell him no sometimes. He's 16. He wants to do prom; he
4 wants to drive; he wants to do all the things other kids
5 do, and fortunately, I have been able to most of the time
6 provide for him, but with this huge increase, I may have to
7 say no more often.

8 I may have to say no to our asthma medications.
9 Both of us have asthma, and it's about \$90 a month for me,
10 for myself, to pay for my medication and his is about \$60.
11 He, fortunately, doesn't need it as often as I do. If we
12 can't keep it under control, then, it's trips to the
13 emergency room, and that can be very expensive.

14 I do work for a health insurance company so I'm
15 well aware of the cost of health care increases. I'm well
16 aware of the issues going on with health care and the
17 expenses that that's bringing for everyone.

18 So adding to that, we have the .13 percent income
19 tax increase which we all just endured as of October 1st
20 here in Allen County, the 10 percent increase on gas tax,
21 our water bills have been going up steadily over the last
22 five years, and NIPSCO is now also asking for an increase,
23 and so all of this combined in one year is just really a
24 burden. It's really, really a struggle.

25 So I'm asking that you take into consideration

1 all those who do struggle to pay their bills now. I mean,
2 Fort Wayne is a conservative city. You know, it's a great
3 place to live. The cost of living here is very low
4 compared to many, many cities, but there are still people
5 that do struggle, they struggle even in a city where the
6 cost of living is low; so I ask that you seriously consider
7 what this would do to people.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 Q Thank you, ma'am.

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(WITNESS KATHY KALTHOFF EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Ashton Roper, come on
2 down.

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4 **ASHTON ROPER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
5 having been first duly sworn, testified as
6 follows:

7

8 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

9 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

10 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
11 the record.

12 A Hi.

13 I'm Ashton Roper, R-o-p-e-r.

14 Q Thank you, ma'am.

15 A I am a really nervous public speaker, but I do have a
16 few things that I wanted to say. I am 25-years old. I'm
17 the Assistant Manager of a Tim Hortons. I make \$1,300 a
18 month if I'm lucky. My last electric bill was \$179. I
19 rent a 115-year old duplex over off of Wells Street. In
20 the winter, I use gas for my heat, and in the summer, my
21 electric bills are ungodly. As of right now, I'm a month
22 and-a-half behind.

23 Somebody earlier said something about the top
24 five executives made \$25 million in 2016. So that
25 \$25 million, couldn't they have maybe put some of their own

1 earnings toward the bailouts that they want us to pay for,
2 the meters that they want us to pay for?

3 I'll be the first to admit that sometimes I spend
4 money on things that I probably shouldn't to treat myself.
5 I buy a \$6 coffee every once in awhile at Starbucks. I
6 maybe go get my hair done. It hasn't been done in a year
7 and-a-half; I can't afford it, but sometimes, yeah, I make
8 bad decisions with my money, but you don't ever see me
9 asking anybody for a bailout. I'm not on any public
10 assistance; I apparently make too much money.

11 On top of that, I have a \$440 car payment a
12 month, \$192 insurance, \$500 rent. That's not -- That's all
13 my money in one month; it's gone. Most months, I don't
14 have money to get food. Most months, I have to decide on
15 if I'm going to eat that night or if I'm going to have gas
16 until I get paid the next Monday.

17 I think it's ridiculous that they want to raise
18 our bills, what, \$30 a month, possibly more, when most of
19 us are struggling people. Like I said, I'm 25-years old.
20 I'm trying to make my way in this world, and those people
21 that made \$25 million last year, they made more money in
22 one year than I've been alive; they made more money than I
23 will ever see in my lifetime.

24 If you want to make bad business decisions,
25 that's fine. I'm not a part of your business. I'm not

1 involved in those decisions, but I'm not going to pay for
2 it.

3 Thank you.

4 Q Thank you, Ms. Roper.

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25 (WITNESS ASHTON ROPER EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll call Pamela Holder.

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3 **PAMELA HOLDER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

6

7 A Good evening.

8 Q Good evening.

9 A First name Pamela, last name Holder, H-o-l-d-e-r.

10 I could represent a whole lot of people, but
11 right now I'm just representing Pam, okay, my family, my
12 children, my children's children, okay. I've been a
13 divorced parent raising three children in this city since
14 1987. I've worked two and three jobs to raise my children.
15 I'm currently working at the Wayne Township Trustee Office
16 where we help with the poor relief program to help people
17 all over this city to pay utilities, rent, mortgage
18 payments, when they're sick, underpaid, when they are just
19 down on their luck and trying to make it and looking for
20 jobs, et cetera, okay.

21 I count myself as privileged because I do have a
22 job every day, and I can pay my bills. I'm struggling
23 because I am living single, and I'm a home buyer. I'm
24 still paying a mortgage. I pay all utilities. I use about
25 eight to ten medications a day, okay. My medical bills are

1 very expensive. I spend about \$150 per month on my
2 medication, and that's with insurance; that's with co-pays,
3 okay.

4 I plan to try to retire at the end of this year.
5 My budget is going to be very tight. This \$30 income --
6 increase is going to really affect me when I become on a
7 fixed income. At the end of this year, I am retiring
8 probably due to my medical issues, okay. So I thought I
9 had my budget all worked out, and now I have another \$30
10 that I have to try to find a month, okay.

11 I'm not the only one it's going to affect. It's
12 going to affect all of us, everybody in this area, who is
13 struggling. Now, at the end of the month, I might have \$30
14 to myself after I pay all of my bills. They take my \$30,
15 I'm just going to be working to pay bills.

16 So, please, please think of people like me.
17 We're struggling, and we're going to be suffering. That
18 \$30 may not mean anything to somebody who makes millions,
19 who can just get a private jet or have their own yacht,
20 okay, or throw big parties, million-dollar parties.

21 You know, I'm just trying to be a legal working
22 citizen here in Fort Wayne, trying to enjoy some of the
23 festivities they have here every year. The Three Rivers
24 Festival, I haven't been able to go to the Three Rivers
25 Festival in years, and I work downtown Fort Wayne.

1 So, please, I'm begging you, please, don't pass
2 this. It's going to hurt more people than just me, okay.
3 God bless you all.

4 Q Thank you, Ms. Holder.

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(WITNESS PAMELA HOLDER EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call John Gospodarek.

2 That's easy for me to say.

3 WITNESS GOSPODAREK: Close.

4

5 **JOHN GOSPODAREK**, a witness appearing on behalf of the

6 Public, having been first duly sworn,

7 testified as follows:

8

9 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

10 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

11 A That's John Gospodarek, and I didn't really plan to
12 speak, but when I got here, I thought I might say a couple
13 of things.

14 Q Could you spell your last name?

15 A G-o-s-p-o-d-a-r-e-k.

16 Q Thank you.

17 A Three things real quick. I won't rehash all the
18 things; you've heard 'em, but I want to hit three points.

19 I live in a neighborhood. I'm on the
20 association. We have four different electrical meters in
21 our association to run the lights for -- entrance lights,
22 things like that. Now, you say this is a \$7.30 minimum
23 charge. Well, we get like \$18 bills for each one of these
24 meters. So this minimum bill, don't be -- don't be
25 mistaken by \$7.30. That's not what a minimum bill is.

1 We have LED lights. We have tried everything.
2 This is basically going to cancel out everything we did to
3 try to save energy and save money. This increase, it just
4 vacates people like us that tried to save money and be
5 efficient, and that's just our association. I'm sure all
6 the associations across the City, people that have --
7 Awhile back, I&M was pushing these outdoor lights. You
8 could put an outdoor light up on your property for so much
9 a month or whatever. It was basically a minimum charge.
10 Again, those rates are going to jump.

11 The second thing is power outages. I live in a
12 block with eight houses. Four of those houses have back-up
13 generators. Less than four years ago maybe, we had this
14 storm in July or whenever it was. We were out of power for
15 a week. Some of my neighbors went to hotels because they
16 were working. I was retired luckily, and I got a generator
17 so that I could keep my refrigerator running and things
18 like that. Some of my neighbors went to hotels because
19 they had to get up and get dressed in the morning, and it
20 was sweltering hot in July when this happened because of
21 storms, but the reliability is just not there. Last month,
22 we had another outage, not very long, a few hours, but we
23 keep having these outages periodically because somebody is
24 getting \$25 million and not putting money in to clearing
25 the trees away from the lines.

1 Third point, I know this is an increase, and you
2 have -- you have the flexibility to approve all of it, part
3 of it, not at all. I would -- I would encourage you to
4 just reject the whole thing. Let's not -- Let's not do
5 part. Let's make them come back with a proposal that is
6 legitimate.

7 When I was a kid and I wanted \$2 to go to the
8 show, I'd ask my parents for 5, and they'd say, well,
9 here's 2, and it's the same thing. They come in here and
10 they ask for a 30 percent increase, 40 percent increase,
11 whatever it is, 147 percent increase, because they know
12 they won't get it, but you may approve a portion of that.
13 Make them come back with a legitimate thing, pass or fail.

14 I really think that we -- And I get mad at
15 Congress for this. We should have -- We should not have
16 amendments. We should not have long drawn-out things.
17 Everything should be an up and down vote. We shouldn't put
18 amendments on things; we should just do it.

19 If they want something for this coal-powered
20 plant, make a proposal. If they want things to change the
21 meters, make a proposal. Let's not group this all
22 together. Let's just do it with an up and down vote.

23 Thank you.

24 Q Thank you, Mr. Gospodarek.

25 (WITNESS JOHN GOSPODAREK EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: We next call Kari Crawford.

2

3 **KARI CRAWFORD**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

9 Q Welcome.

10 A Hi.

11 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
12 the record.

13 A Good evening.

14 My name is Kari Crawford, C-r-a-w-f-o-r-d.

15 Q Thank you.

16 A I could stand up here and I could talk about how this
17 rate hike is going to financially cripple the elderly, the
18 young people just starting out like we heard from that lady
19 Ashton. We could talk about the residents on fixed income.
20 We could talk about people on social security disability.

21 You guys are intelligent. You've done your
22 homework. You already know what this is going to do to the
23 people in our community. I&M, I'm sure, has done their
24 financial research every time they've done a rate hike on
25 how this is going to financially impact the areas that

1 they're wanting this increase to go in, and if they
2 haven't, shame on them, and if they have and they've
3 ignored it, shame on them even more.

4 We're not here saying, oh, we're against this
5 rate hike. We are. We're against being taken advantage of
6 over the last ten years time and time again. No one is
7 saying no; no one is saying no, but just passing it on and
8 saying, deal with it; not our problem. I make \$100,000 a
9 year; I'm sorry that you only make 30. I'm sorry that
10 you're a single mom with a child with an immune disorder or
11 a grandson with Hirschsprung's or a daughter with anxiety
12 that has to go through numerous counseling. No one seemed
13 to care; you just passed it on.

14 We're looking for you to be our voice for once.
15 Enough is enough. I don't know in any business that the
16 person that saves, the person that does without, is
17 punished instead of the ones that use more because this is
18 what this new rate hike is going to do. The people that
19 use the less amount of electricity are going to be punished
20 the most, the people that have tried to save after city,
21 local, federal, county government has said, save your
22 electricity, go to energy saving appliances, energy saving
23 lightbulbs, energy saving this, energy saving that. We've
24 all done that. Some of us went kicking and screaming to do
25 it, but we've done that, but now you're taking away the

1 incentive to do the savings.

2 You're going to punish the ones that have done
3 the savings. You're going to punish the people in
4 one-people houses, the small homes that don't have the huge
5 electric bills, they're going to see the biggest increase
6 in this.

7 For once would somebody just say enough is
8 enough. You've heard us. You've heard us all over
9 Indiana, all over the United States. It's been the same
10 thing from your citizens. We say no. We say enough is
11 enough, and in any other business that isn't a monopoly,
12 you would have no customers.

13 Q Thank you, ma'am.

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(WITNESS KARI CRAWFORD EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we're going to call
2 Bonnie Andrews.

3

4 **BONNIE ANDREWS**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
5 Public, having been first duly sworn,
6 testified as follows:

7

8 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

9 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

10 Q Hi, Ms. Andrews. Thanks for staying.

11 A Good evening. My name is --

12 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
13 the record.

14 A A-n-d-r-e-w-s.

15 Q Thank you.

16 A I'm Bonnie Andrews, and I live at 1215 McCulloch
17 Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and I am an AEP customer.

18 I also represent all of -- many of my neighbors
19 that I went around and spoke to if they heard about this
20 increase, and we all live on a small pension or social
21 security or both. We are continually seeing requests for
22 increases -- rate increases for water, for our sewage, gas,
23 food, and now lights on our stagnant income. Most of us
24 are homeowners.

25 If we were to go to a bank with a request for

1 improvements as vague as I&M's, we'd be sent home. They
2 would want a detailed outline of what we wanted to improve,
3 what -- each and every room, the cost of each individual
4 item, how many of them, and a time line to pay it off which
5 means that I and my neighbors would see an end to the money
6 increase.

7 It looks like I&M just wants to keep collecting
8 year after year with no end in sight; therefore, I ask of
9 the Commissioners who have been established to protect
10 people like me and my neighbors to reject this Cause 44967.

11 Thank you.

12 Q Thank you.

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(WITNESS BONNIE ANDREWS EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll hear from Neil Warner.

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3 **NEIL WARNER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

4 having been first duly sworn, testified as

5 follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

9 Q Mr. Warner, it says here you're speaking on behalf of
10 Deerfield Estates?

11 A In addition to myself.

12 Q Okay.

13 A Neil Warner, W-a-r-n-e-r.

14 Q Thank you, sir.

15 Go ahead.

16 A Thank you to the Commission and Judge for their
17 opportunity -- for giving us the opportunity to chat about
18 this. Some of the things have already been mentioned; so
19 I'm going to make mine very brief.

20 I do -- Regardless of whether the home energy
21 audit is required by the government or not, I appreciate
22 AEP being able and willing to do that. I was one of the
23 fortunate ones that got \$1,500 worth of additional
24 insulation in my house; so I've taken that step. I've
25 switched over to CFLs and LEDs and programmable

1 thermostats. I have a whole house fan. We don't use our
2 air conditioner until the temperature gets unbearable, over
3 90 degrees. So I take those steps to conserve electricity
4 not only for myself but for the environment.

5 So all of those things should have reduced the
6 amount of capacity that AEP needs. So I feel that there is
7 additional capacity, and I feel that this rate increase is
8 unjust on the monthly charge increase as well as the per
9 kilowatt use.

10 Along with that, the City of Fort Wayne -- I'm a
11 resident of the City of Fort Wayne. I am a -- I own three
12 homes -- I own three cars. So I've got a wheel tax on
13 there that's been increased recently. I'm an Aqua Indiana
14 customer. This Commission is well aware of the recent
15 increase in that. We've got a .13 percent tax increase
16 that has been forced on the City of Fort Wayne voted in by
17 the City Council which on an average \$49,000 per year
18 household is a \$6 per month increase in my taxes. I've got
19 a 10 cent per gallon gas tax which adds up to an exorbitant
20 amount of increases in my tax base this year.

21 As the other neighborhood association person
22 mentioned, we have two lights in our neighborhood. So
23 we've got an additional -- if this goes through, an
24 additional \$12 or \$11 a month per light. We've got two
25 lights. So that's going to cost us.

1 The other concern I have is the City of Fort
2 Wayne is a customer of AEP. So not only am I going to be
3 forced to pay additional rates, but I have streetlights in
4 my neighborhood. There are stoplights in my neighborhood
5 and area. So I'm going to be -- That's going to increase
6 the City of Fort Wayne's budget in addition to my budget.
7 So, at some point, the City of Fort Wayne is going to come
8 and want an increase in the taxes that I'm paying as a
9 homeowner.

10 So while I don't doubt there is an increase in --
11 that needs to be done, I don't believe it needs to be on
12 the monthly charge. I do believe that if it is on
13 anything, it's on the kilowatt charge, and at a minimum,
14 please, please bear that in mind.

15 So I do want to thank you for the opportunity to
16 speak to you this evening. Thank you for your time.

17 Q Thank you, Mr. Warner.

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25 (WITNESS NEIL WARNER EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Can I have a show of hands, how many
2 speakers do we have remaining? That's great.

3 The reason I ask, though, is of those, how many
4 were not sworn in at the beginning of the hearing?

5 Okay, if you could stand up?

6

7 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO NUMEROUS PEOPLE)

8

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

10 Mr. Helmen?

11 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 Next we're going to hear from Jorge Fernandez.

13

14 **JORGE FERNANDEZ**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
15 Public, having been first duly sworn,
16 testified as follows:

17

18 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

19 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

20 Q If you could state your name and spell your last name
21 for the record?

22 A Hi.

23 My name is Jorge Fernandez. Last name is spelled
24 F-e-r-n-a-n-d-e-z.

25 Q Thank you.

1 A Now I'm not here to reiterate everything that's been
2 spoken. There's been a lot of good speakers already, but I
3 did want to hit on two points, the time line and the fixed
4 charge.

5 On the time line, I'm not saying that I&M has or
6 that -- that I&M has not done -- met the minimum legal
7 requirement as far as notice, but I am saying that people
8 feel this has been sprung on them, I think it's fair to
9 say. I think it's fair to say that people generally --
10 customers of I&M generally are outraged at this.

11 Moving on, the fixed charge, there are definitely
12 issues that have already been brought up on this. I could
13 go into a long list of rhetorical questions, but -- on
14 this, but instead, I'm just going to make my point
15 absolutely clear, and that is, I cannot -- I&M has given a
16 long list of reasons why they're doing this rate increase,
17 and I cannot see why they need to restructure this rate
18 increase to fall on the people that are just connected to
19 the power grid. I do not see why the focus of this is on
20 the -- on people that are using the least amount of
21 electricity as far as a lot of this cost would be on.

22 I cannot see why this -- this one -- you know,
23 this one time increase is coming so suddenly. I don't know
24 what natural disaster happened or what -- you know, what
25 catastrophe happened that would justify, you know, this

1 coming all of a sudden. It seems like if you're doing any
2 planning whatsoever, that that would be covered in that.

3 So I am recommending that the Utility Commission
4 not go forward and not allow this rate increase.

5 Thank you.

6 Q Thank you, Mr. Fernandez.

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25 **(WITNESS JORGE FERNANDEZ EXCUSED)**

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll call Amy Brehmer.

2

3 **AMY BREHMER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

9 Q Good evening.

10 A Hello.

11 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
12 the record.

13 A My name is Amy Brehmer, B-r-e-h-m-e-r.

14 Q Thank you, ma'am.

15 A Hi. I'm Amy Brehmer. I'm an AEP customer.

16 To be honest, when I heard there was going to be
17 a 7 to 20 percent rate increase, I didn't give it much
18 thought. There is so much going on in our country, my
19 first thought that came to my mind was, another problem for
20 struggling citizens; nobody really cares.

21 Then when thinking about my 12-year old daughter,
22 who is homeschooled due to anxiety at her previous school,
23 and my 6-year old son, who has sensory processing issues
24 who is currently in occupational therapy, this rate
25 increase is not acceptable.

1 I am already stressed out by the end of the day.
2 Then when I see my bill from I&P [verbatim], I realize I'm
3 going to have to spend my evenings working out a monthly
4 budget, and this is happening now. What happens when the
5 increase takes place, if it does? Plus, the increase isn't
6 even for a good cause. Asking for money to support a coal
7 plant is audacious. Why? I don't want fossil fuel for my
8 kids' future, and I think they know that, too.

9 I&P [verbatim] knows the majority of us want our
10 kids to be healthy with cleaner energy. The Rockport plant
11 was supposed to close many years later. Well, now,
12 I&P [verbatim] is realizing the plant is not good in any
13 way; so they're planning on closing the plant significantly
14 earlier than before. So why not [verbatim] have us, the
15 customers, pay for their ever changing attitude?

16 Finally, this increase is due to I&P's [verbatim]
17 decision to not install smart meters when they knew smart
18 meters were the way of the future. Now, five years in,
19 I&P [verbatim] wants to install smart meters when the
20 current meters are good for ten more years. Why should we
21 have to pay for their meters? The answer is obvious; we
22 shouldn't.

23 Q Thank you, Ms. Brehmer.

24

25 (WITNESS AMY BREHMER EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll call Jane Gresham.

2

3 **JANE PORTER GRESHAM**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
4 Public, having been first duly sworn,
5 testified as follows:

6

7 Q Good evening.

8 A Actually, it's Jane Porter Gresham.

9 Q I'm sorry.

10 A P-o-r-t-e-r G-r-e-s-h-a-m.

11 Q Thank you, ma'am.

12 A Thank you for coming tonight and listening to all our
13 conversations and our concerns.

14 Actually, I wouldn't be here tonight if our
15 Treasurer had been able to attend. I'm speaking on behalf
16 of our congregation. Our Treasurer is very conscientious
17 and has run the numbers of what it will do to our small
18 congregation. Currently, our electric bill annually is
19 \$17,200. With this rate hike, it will increase to \$21,500.

20 I balance that by saying we are very
21 conscientious and have started to change over to energy
22 efficient lightbulbs. We've started to change over to
23 energy efficient appliances.

24 We currently serve a meal to the community every
25 Wednesday night, and that money comes from a different

1 bucket, but we also offer vouchers for folks who are
2 struggling. If we can give them a food voucher, they can
3 use their money to keep up with their electric bills or
4 water bills or whatever.

5 With this increase, our funding is going to be
6 dramatically changed, and we probably will still offer the
7 meals, but we may not be able to offer any vouchers which
8 puts a burden on the other agencies in our community, and I
9 think that's a concern that I would raise. What are we
10 doing to our community to allow people to sustain
11 themselves, and I don't see it here.

12 I urge you to oppose this rate increase.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 Q Thank you, Ms. Porter Gresham.

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25 (WITNESS JANE PORTER GRESHAM EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next let's hear from Pete Collins.
2 Is Mr. Collins here?
3 We'll set that aside in case he left the room.
4 How about Roger Reece of Associated Churches?
5
6 **ROGER REECE**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
7 having been first duly sworn, testified as
8 follows:
9
10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**
11 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**
12 Q Good evening.
13 Please state your name and spell your last name
14 for the record.
15 A Roger Reece, R-e-e-c-e.
16 I represent 140 churches in our community. They
17 come together calling themselves Associated Churches to do
18 some basic ministry needs in the community; so it's basic
19 needs and family services.
20 So these 140 churches, as you just heard,
21 struggle on their own to do ministry in their own parish.
22 Then, when they can, they give to this association that
23 tries to feed the County with emergency food relief, and so
24 we do that in 26 pantries. I'm going to try to be brief
25 because you've heard a lot tonight. We do it in 26

1 pantries. All of those pantries have aging infrastructure
2 and have their own set of issues about staying open.

3 We also serve A Baby's Closet. A Baby's Closet
4 is where 700 young mothers and families come together to
5 get support for their children. It's an incentive program.

6 Then, we also have 25 urban child care
7 facilities. Big words for saying a lot of intercity church
8 day cares -- I shouldn't say day cares -- child care
9 facilities. They would not be open if it weren't for
10 grants that we give them to stay open because we need them
11 to stay open because if they close, where will those
12 children go? If we're going to drill down in the community
13 to try to raise the level in this community, we have to
14 start it at an early age.

15 What does that have to do with you? Everything.
16 We all have to pay the light bill. I wish I could take you
17 to those child care facilities. I'm going to move quickly.

18 We also do this thing called military hardship
19 relief. We have several units in town. I'm a former Army
20 chaplain, and we provide emergency hardship relief for
21 active duty soldiers serving in the Guard and Reserve units
22 here in our community. So it's the 293rd Infantry Unit on
23 Cook; it's the 122nd Fighter Wing. When I get a call when
24 a soldier needs support, guess what it is? Well, I know
25 you can't talk to me; so I'll tell you. It's two

1 [verbatim] things: food, my electric bill, and counseling.
2 And why do they need counseling? It goes back to the
3 stressors that they're already facing.

4 So this rate hike, you would think, oh, that --
5 that shouldn't be that impactful. It probably wouldn't be
6 to most of us, but yesterday, I get a call from the
7 school -- a school here in Fort Wayne, and it's the school
8 social worker, and she calls, as they do from time to time,
9 saying, we have a situation, and it was -- it was -- it was
10 a mom who couldn't feed her kids -- couldn't feed her kids
11 because she paid all of her bills. Nobody was there to
12 say, don't pay -- don't pay that bill; you need to make
13 sure the kids have food. But she was doing the right
14 thing. So yesterday, I -- as I often do, I take things
15 like this, the beat up boxes of Cheerios, the macaroni and
16 cheese, the soup. You would have thought I brought gold
17 into that household.

18 You've heard lots of stories, you've heard lots
19 of research, from our friends and neighbors here. I can't
20 speak to that, but I can speak to the hurting and the
21 impact that it will have in our community.

22 So I sincerely request that you, please, be
23 strong and represent that mom who is doing the best she
24 can.

25 Q Thank you, Mr. Reece.

1 A One more thing. I know I'm probably off the record,
2 but you ask, how does that -- the Cheerios and things like
3 that get paid for? There is a lady in this room who's
4 getting married next month. She just spoke, over there in
5 the pink, and instead of gifts for her wedding, she wants
6 everyone to write a check to Associated Churches to the
7 food bank. Now, how cool is that?

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(WITNESS ROGER REECE EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll have Owen Woodson,
2 hopefully.

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4 **OWEN WOODSON**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
5 having been first duly sworn, testified as
6 follows:

7

8 Q Thanks for coming, Mr. Woodson.

9 A Oh, no problem.

10 Owen Woodson, W-o-o-d-s-o-n.

11 Q Thank you, sir.

12 Go ahead.

13 A I'm not here only just for myself, but I'm here for
14 the lower class, the middle class; I'm here for the single
15 mothers, here for the senior citizens, the people on
16 disability. I'm also on disability. I've been disabled
17 since birth, and I'd like to thank all of you for being
18 here. Thank you for your time.

19 I would like to say that, you know, everybody is
20 begging and pleading and asking you guys, you know, for
21 these sorry stories, but we have a God. So, I mean, I'm
22 praying; I'm asking. So I'm going to pray for you guys.
23 I'm going to ask, but most of all, I'm going to pray to God
24 that his will be done because this is wrong. We don't need
25 this. This is dead wrong. So that's what I'm doing. So

1 we as a people -- You know, united we stand, divided we
2 fall. We have to pray. So I'm praying to God that
3 whatever is done, it's his way, not my way will be done,
4 but his way will.

5 Thank you.

6 Q Thank you, Mr. Woodson.

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(WITNESS OWEN WOODSON EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Scott Adams.

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3 **SCOTT ADAMS**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

6

7 A Hello. Thank you all for being here.

8 My name is Scott Adams, and I oppose this rate
9 hike, and I honestly hope that you do, too. I don't -- I
10 really don't want to see the base rate increase, and so I
11 realize you're here to do something, and you're wanting
12 input from us, and that, you know, despite some of our
13 suggestions, you might have to do some kind of increase,
14 but, hopefully, it's not at the base rate because a lot of
15 these people have already said it, like Patrick Ewing, and
16 his description of the base rate issue is really a good
17 one.

18 I would further add that the base rate issue, if
19 you had to go forward with it, you could use a step system
20 or a bracketed system the same way as our property taxes
21 does. Like there's an over 65 discount; there's a hardship
22 discount. Even through the Trustee's Office, you can see
23 those bracketed systems on our taxes.

24 So if I&M would, then, say, okay, you're in the
25 over 880 kilowatt hour bracket, you're going to be paying

1 that full \$18 or whatever, and if you're a business, you're
2 going to be paying that larger portion because you end
3 up -- what you're using becomes the reason why you have to
4 pay into the larger portion. The people that just have a
5 light pole, doubling theirs is just -- it's ridiculous.

6 I do want to apologize. I'm a little sick right
7 now so luckily I'm one of the last ones so I won't get
8 everyone sick, but I am a little surprised that I&M didn't
9 ask for this after December because after December, the new
10 legislation that's crippling solar electric, the
11 competition for individuals that can come in with a net
12 metering and take control of their actual power, that
13 cut-off is in December. If you don't put solar panels on
14 your house before then, you're in the -- it's my
15 understanding that you're in one set of the bracket versus
16 the other.

17 I believe that a lot of the recent actions of I&M
18 is deliberate and continues to take steps towards a
19 monopoly, and one of the things that just comes to my mind
20 is our hydroelectric dam. It was owned by the people and
21 the City, and we mistakenly leased it to I&M, and then they
22 allowed it to fall apart and be crippled and then paid
23 cents -- pennies on the dollar to effectively remove their
24 competition.

25 Now, this causes other issues, and the other

1 issue is the transmission lines that come into our city,
2 there's not enough power coming in. We used to have power
3 here, and because we don't have power here anymore, we have
4 to upgrade them to prevent the brownouts that we've been
5 having, and rolling brownouts is where your electricity --
6 you're not getting supplied the full 120 volts, and I have
7 solar panels on my house, and I see the dirty power that's
8 coming in, and you can see in the summertime when the usage
9 is high, the line is sagging down, and a lot of people
10 don't know, they don't realize, that these are issues that,
11 yes, you're going to need a little bit more money to do
12 this, you're going to need a little bit more money for the
13 transmission lines, but if they had moved ahead on their
14 process and not tried to remove their competition, more of
15 us could be generating our own power, doing something to
16 remove those loads that are causing the infrastructure to
17 have to go up and get built earlier.

18 Now, it's interesting that in their plan, a lot
19 of people say, why isn't I&M moving forward to have more
20 solar panels and more alternative energies and things like
21 that? Well, you know, they are; they are moving forward.
22 They've got slated plans in 2020 and 2025 to build more of
23 these micro-solar plants, and so as you put in the little
24 solar areas, it reduces the distance that the transmission
25 lines have to do things; it reduces the heat, the load, the

1 cost, everything. Solar panels are getting so much
2 cheaper. It's great. But when they go out and lobby
3 Indiana to take the public's right to compete against them,
4 take that out of the window, it's -- it's just wrong, and I
5 feel that it's deliberate.

6 You know, I'm not even going to go into my No. 4,
7 the next one, because, you know, I actually do like our
8 power company. I like I&M. They've been doing a decent
9 job for years. They do the energy audits in people's
10 homes, teaching them, you know, when they've got a \$500 a
11 month bill that, okay, if we go through and get you some
12 LEDs and reduce the size of your water and the waste, a lot
13 of people talked about how much they do and how they're
14 doing their part, and it's great, but I think a lot of them
15 are missing how many other things that they can be doing.

16 As an example, I guess there's my own electric
17 bill. I pay \$500. I just send them a \$500 check once,
18 one time. Every year, I send them a \$500 check, and that
19 covers my entire electric bill.

20 So, you know, I'm looking at, okay, it says cost
21 per day is 46 cents a day, a dollar 20 a day. All right,
22 you know what, I know how to keep my electric usage down.
23 I've got a 2,000 square foot home. I've got flat screen
24 t.v.s. I've got air conditioning. I've got over -- I've
25 got solar. I've got solar thermal for my water heater. I

1 do a lot of things. In the summertime, sure, if my bill is
2 starting to go up, I'm the guy with the flashlight on his
3 head. If it's really hot outside, the sun is up, you know
4 what, I go out there with a sprinkler and I water my roof
5 to cool my house down.

6 So I know how to save money. If I feel like
7 doing it, I can do that, but when you just say, oh, well,
8 you know what, we're going to do this \$7.20, which is \$87 a
9 year, that reduces what I'm paying down to \$412 of actual
10 usage, and then if you double that, \$216 a year, I'm then,
11 you know, down to \$285.

12 Sometimes I don't make a lot of money; sometimes
13 I make a lot of money. I'm in the construction field, and
14 it's up and down. I've got back problems. It happens. So
15 when I have money, like the lady said over there, sometimes
16 I like to splurge and enjoy and turn on more stuff, but
17 when I don't, I have to consider that from, oh, April to
18 December, there's five months in there, and at \$7.20, five
19 months becomes \$36 a month, and a disconnection fee is 40.
20 Well, you know what, for five months, I don't need power; I
21 can turn it off.

22 In the wintertime, okay, I like heat, but I like
23 it to blow a little faster. I don't want to be in there
24 with a fan or doing something crazy that I can do. I have
25 that choice. I just don't want to have to make those kinds

1 of choices. I don't think these people should have to make
2 those kinds of choices.

3 Thank you. That's -- I probably said more than I
4 should have, and I appreciate you guys being here, and,
5 hopefully, you can think out of the box and come up with an
6 innovative solution to not have to increase it so much.

7 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Mr. Adams.

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(WITNESS SCOTT ADAMS EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Did Pete Collins ever join us?

2 How about Pamela Pfrang?

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4 **PAMELA PFRANG**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

5 having been first duly sworn, testified as

6 follows:

7

8 A Good evening, Commissioners. My name is

9 Pamela Pfrang. You were close. P-f-r-a-n-g.

10 I am an I&M customer here in Fort Wayne. I

11 oppose a couple things here. I oppose a couple moves by

12 I&M, the rate increase and the direction that I&M is

13 signaling as reasons for the rate increase.

14 I really expect that I&M is savvy. They know

15 that an extreme rate increase, such as they've asked for,

16 doubling the fixed rates and the 20 percent increase in the

17 rate, they're not going to get that. They're going to have

18 citizen after citizen at these hearings stepping up and

19 saying, no, no, no, no, don't do it. I expect that they

20 are hoping for something less. You know, you ask for this

21 and really you want that, okay.

22 I think a second reason why they've asked for

23 such an extreme rate increase here is because it's a

24 distraction. You know, you get everybody all hepped up

25 about the extreme costs that they are proposing to incur on

1 customers and it takes off the focus on what's going on
2 with the other issue, the big issue that was before this
3 Commission at Homestead High last April, you know, the
4 future of the Rockport coal-burning plant.

5 Looking at I&M's own facts sheet, we can see that
6 they claim the Rockport plant produces 2,600 megawatts of
7 power, of electricity. Mr. Toby Thomas, who's the head of
8 I&M, in a letter to the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette
9 justified his company's proposed rate increase on various
10 bases, none of which involves clean energy. Interestingly,
11 the very first sentence of Mr. Thomas' letter in the
12 Journal Gazette touted I&M for bringing on line
13 16 megawatts of solar power. Yay, yay, for I&M,
14 16 megawatts of solar power. Why don't we look at, you
15 know, that in context. That is 4/650th of the power
16 produced by Rockport. This solar on line, this small
17 amount, is a fig leaf for, you know, what I&M really wants
18 to do.

19 They want to keep doing fossil fuel as they've
20 done it in the past. Their proposed justifications for
21 this increase says zero, zip, you know, about any clean
22 energy despite, you know, the citizens' objections at
23 Homestead High School, and I don't think it was just at
24 Homestead High School that there's been reaction to the
25 Rockport plant as antagonistic as it was at Homestead.

1 I oppose what I&M is doing. I really think
2 they're trying to distract -- distract us with this
3 outrageous rate increase. In this day and age, people
4 don't bring pitchforks to rate hearings like this, but you
5 can expect just about everybody that's going to step up
6 here is going to be saying no, no, no, for various reasons,
7 don't do it.

8 I think, you know, we've got to keep our eye on
9 costs but also on the future. I&M needs to address the
10 future. Clean energy is not something that they can just,
11 you know, bat to the side. I hope, you know, you'll hold
12 them responsible in every respect.

13 Thank you, Commissioners.

14 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Ms. Pfrang.

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25 (WITNESS PAMELA PFRANG EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll call Sandra Moliere?

2 Am I close?

3 WITNESS MOLIERE: Yes, very close.

4 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, ma'am.

5

6 **SANDRA MOLIERE**, a witness appearing on behalf of the

7 Public, having been first duly sworn,

8 testified as follows:

9

10 A Sandra Moliere, M-o-l-i-e-r-e.

11 As a citizen, I'm more than happy to pay my
12 utility bill. I use electricity. I like what it gives me.
13 It makes my life better, but I expect the company that
14 provides my electricity to use -- make wise decisions, use
15 my money wisely, and give us the best deal.

16 We've had several people refer to the Rockport
17 coal plant producing all kinds of pollution, all kinds of
18 illnesses. That's not what we need to be spending our
19 money on, and we know that they could close one unit and
20 still provide the electricity that we need.

21 I don't think I&M is using my money wisely, and I
22 really hate to give them more. I think that they owe it to
23 the citizens to treat us well, to treat the earth well, and
24 to do the right thing, and I don't think raising this rate
25 is the right thing. I hope you will deny them.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, ma'am.

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25 (WITNESS SANDRA MOLIERE EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll call Noor Borbieva.

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3 **NOOR BORBIEVA**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

9 Q Welcome.

10 Please state your name and spell your last name
11 for the record.

12 A Hi.

13 Noor Borbieva, B, as in boy, o-r-b-i-e-v-a.

14 Q Thank you, ma'am.

15 A Hello. Thank you so much for being here tonight. I
16 am speaking to oppose the 44967. I am an I&M customer. I
17 live in Fort Wayne.

18 Well, I&M is at it again. As a regulated
19 monopoly, they're always looking for extra excuses to get
20 more of our cash, and here they are begging all of you to
21 let them raise our monthly fixed fees by over 100 percent
22 plus large increases to our usage fees.

23 They give us a well-spun, professionally styled
24 set of reasons. I've read through them. I was impressed
25 by certain words like capital improvements and upgrades and

1 this and that, but I don't buy it. The real reason, as
2 many people here have said already, that is evident to all
3 of us customers is that these people keep making bad
4 business decisions. They've discovered with experience
5 that they can rely on all of us to bail them out, you and
6 also us.

7 It's ironic that we Hoosiers who are so famous
8 for the high value we place on free enterprise and
9 corporate and personal responsibility are completely
10 beholden to this slippery monopoly. We are at their and
11 today actually your mercy. We represent a huge pool of
12 guaranteed customers. Their track record of getting what
13 they want from Indiana politicians is pretty good.

14 Living here in this State, I've started to feel
15 so powerless. I watched last Spring in shock how, despite
16 a general public opposition to House Bill 309 about net
17 metering, they got exactly what they wanted. The only
18 thing we have at this moment, the only power we have at
19 this moment, is coming to hearings like this and begging
20 people like you to help us.

21 The rate hikes steal from the poor and it gives
22 to the rich. It steals from responsible business owners
23 and other good people who are innovating and being
24 responsible and serving their communities. It's just a way
25 to get more of our money.

1 Actually, as I was sitting here like you
2 listening to all of the comments and hearing the same
3 themes over and over and over again, I was reminded of an
4 op-ed piece I just read two days ago by Robert Samuelson
5 who is a columnist for the Washington Post and an
6 economist. He talked about a book called The Captured
7 Economy by Brink Lindsey and Steven Teles. They write in
8 this book, The Captured Economy, about how our economy is,
9 quote, riddled with self-serving arrangements mainly
10 benefitting the rich that impose excess costs on the poor
11 and middle class and reduce economic growth, and that's
12 exactly what I'm hearing tonight about what is going on
13 here.

14 So I'm pleading with all of you, please, stop
15 making us pay for these bad decisions of our executives.

16 Thank you.

17 Q Thank you, Ms. Borbieva.

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(WITNESS NOOR BORBIEVA EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll call Carla Kilgore.

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3 **CARLA KILGORE**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

9 Q Good evening. Thanks for your patience.

10 A Hello.

11 Q Please state your name and spell your last name for
12 the record.

13 A I'm Carla Kilgore, K-i-l-g-o-r-e.

14 Q Thank you, ma'am.

15 Please go ahead.

16 A I'm a resident here in Fort Wayne and a customer, and
17 I appreciate the work that you do to work with the power
18 companies and make sure things are fair. I don't think
19 this would be a fair proposal for the customers of AEP.

20 I'm a social worker. I work with low-income
21 people who struggle to pay their monthly bills, and in
22 addition to working on behalf of those people, I work with
23 good people who make low wages and have multiple jobs in
24 order to be able to pay their bills. Obviously, this would
25 be a hardship for anyone who has to work two to three jobs

1 to be able to pay their monthly bills.

2 In addition, I'm concerned by the environmental
3 impacts that I don't see being considered here. If this
4 proposal was to spend a huge amount of money in order to
5 make things better so that the energy would be more
6 efficient in the future, cleaner and in the long term
7 cheaper for all of us, that would be one thing; that would
8 be an investment in our future. Instead, what it seems
9 like this is is just we want more money to do the same old
10 things that we've been doing and pay off some of the
11 problems we've had along the way.

12 That's not compelling. I don't want to do that,
13 and I don't think anybody -- anybody does. Of course,
14 nobody wants to pay bills, but what we're asking for here
15 is not that we be taken off the hook to pay our bills, but
16 that the people most responsible pay the bills, and what I
17 would see is if they came with a request that people who
18 use the most energy need to pay a little bit more so that
19 they can produce the large amounts of energy they need,
20 that would be reasonable, but to ask low-income people to
21 pay a monthly fee that doesn't give them any extra energy
22 is just not fair.

23 Thank you.

24 Q Thank you, ma'am.

25 (WITNESS CARLA KILGORE EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next let's hear from Glenda Walden.

2 Glenda Walden?

3 Grace Strahm?

4

5 **GRACE STRAHM**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

6 having been first duly sworn, testified as

7 follows:

8

9 Q Thank you, ma'am.

10 A Hello.

11 I'm Grace Strahm, S-t-r-a-h-m.

12 Q Thank you.

13 Go ahead.

14 A I'm a Fort Wayne resident and an AEP customer since I

15 was 18, I believe. I'm 35 now.

16 I would like to, of course, reverberate the same

17 things that my neighbors have said, things like if we were

18 paying more to get things like clean energy that would give

19 us cleaner air and water, we would probably be very happy

20 to do so and be seeing lower rates in our futures, but at

21 this point, we are not, and we're not very happy about it.

22 We also are not sure why the executives of this

23 company are getting so much money, but yet, we're being

24 asked to pay more money when we don't get paid very much

25 money, most of us. The most recent ALICE study in Allen

1 County, Indiana showed that almost 50 percent -- I believe
2 it was 14 -- 47 and-a-half percent this past year of Allen
3 County residents were working poor -- Asset Limited, Income
4 Constrained, Employed -- people who are not making it.

5 We can't afford any rate increases. We can't
6 afford any rate hikes, and we definitely don't want to pay
7 for something that's not going to make things better. I've
8 had asthma since I was born practically, and it hasn't made
9 my life any easier working, not working, having to pay for
10 my medicine, or any of that stuff.

11 I would very much like you to deny this rate
12 increase and consider that I&M makes plenty of money to fix
13 anything they need to with the money that they get, and we
14 would like to see clean energy.

15 Thank you.

16 Q Thank you, ma'am.

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25 **(WITNESS GRACE STRAHM EXCUSED)**

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we call Becky Kemp.

2

3 **BECKY KEMP**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

6

7 Q Good evening.

8 A Hi.

9 I'm Becky Kemp, K-e-m-p. I'm a customer. I'm
10 from Decatur, Indiana. I'm going to make this very short.

11 I came from a completely different direction, and
12 what I decided to do was I want to invest in I&M, in the
13 electric company. So I went to the computer, and I thought
14 I'm going to see how great they sound.

15 The first thing that popped up was the Case
16 No. 44283, and I'm probably preaching to the choir; you
17 probably already know about it. It was 33 pages. It was
18 testimony, and I&M was being sued, and this was May the
19 12th, 2017, by Marc E. Lewis in this case, and out of the
20 33 pages, what really got me was a Ms. Schneider who stated
21 in her direct testimony, and what it was regarding was how
22 great Duke Energy was, as an example, and they can't --
23 couldn't understand in this lawsuit -- I won't go on
24 because it was, like I said, 33 pages, but it was saying
25 that what our electric company is doing is absurd in the

1 way we're spending our money.

2 So to continue on, I was kind of looking into --
3 there's 350,000 investors. They've had 400 continuous
4 quarters of payouts, and I thought this was kind of
5 strange, but in 2017, they expected a 29 percent increase,
6 and this is the stocks, and 3.6 billion in revenue, and
7 this was the statement from Nicholas Akins, AEP's Chairman,
8 President, and Chief Executive Officer.

9 Now, I'd like to know who is telling the truth
10 because if I'm looking at it to invest, 3.6 billion in
11 revenue and lower operating and maintenance compared to
12 last year, things are great. So, now, who -- do I go with
13 the investors and what they're saying or -- and I didn't
14 get a chance to read all of the things that are there, but
15 I don't even understand why they're asking for money. What
16 are they doing with the 3.6 billion in revenue and lower
17 operating and maintenance compared to last year? So that's
18 my question.

19 Thank you.

20 Q Thank you, Ms. Kemp.

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25 (WITNESS BECKY KEMP EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we have Linda Murphy.

2 Is Linda here?

3 How about Gabe Gabriel?

4

5 **GABRIEL GABRIEL**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
6 Public, having been first duly sworn,
7 testified as follows:

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9 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

10 **QUESTION BY MR. HELMEN:**

11 Q Good evening.

12 A Good evening.

13 Q State your name and spell your last name for the
14 record.

15 A Gabriel Gabriel, spelled G-a-b-r-i-e-l.

16 My mother would have much more rather than I be
17 speaking in front of you today in opposition to this bill,
18 but currently she's putting to bed five other kids. I come
19 from a six kid household. So I was going to explain some
20 of the expenses we go through every month in accordance to
21 bills.

22 So food is always the first thing that's paid,
23 and that's about \$800 every month, and then we have gas,
24 water, and electric, which you can imagine is absurdly high
25 having six kids. On top of that, this month we had a car

1 break down, and that was \$900. We also have medical
2 expenses. We all have ADHD, two of our kids have asthma,
3 and three of the six go to counseling; so there's another
4 thousand dollars out the window.

5 Another thing my mom does is she pays for better
6 education; so my siblings go to St. E so that they can have
7 a better circumstance when they grow up so they don't have
8 to worry about paying a \$30 increase.

9 So what I'm trying to get at here is even with a
10 mom who is working hard to take care of her children and
11 keeping up with the bills and everything, there's no room
12 to stretch that \$30 even though it seems like a very
13 infinitesimal amount.

14 My second point being the health concerns for our
15 citizens of southern Indiana. There's been a lot of talk
16 in Congress about eradicating or reforming Obamacare which
17 helps cover medical expenses for respiratory ailments, such
18 as black lung which is very common among coal workers and
19 asthma, and it would be two blows made from IBM [verbatim]:
20 first off, raise their electric rates and then keep up a
21 coal plant which adds to respiratory ailments that could
22 potentially in the future not be covered.

23 So to put a financial burden on the already
24 financially burdened citizens of Indiana, the hardworking
25 citizens, including the people in this room, is kind of an

1 absurd proposition.

2 Thank you.

3 Q Thank you, Mr. Gabriel.

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25 (WITNESS GABRIEL GABRIEL EXCUSED)

1 MR. HELMEN: Next we'll spring back around, did
2 Pete Collins ever return?

3 What about Glenda Walden or Linda Murphy?

4 Your Honor, that's all the speakers that I have
5 sheets for.

6 If there are no other speakers, at this time, we
7 would move for the admission of Fort Wayne Field Hearing
8 Exhibit 1 which are the comment sheets, both written and/or
9 verbal statements, from tonight.

10 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Helmen.

11 Fort Wayne Field Hearing Exhibit 1 is admitted
12 into the record.

13 MR. HELMEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

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15 (PUBLIC'S EXHIBIT NO. FORT WAYNE FH-1, CONSISTING
16 OF THE PUBLIC FIELD HEARING QUESTIONNAIRES,
17 ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)

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1 THE COURT: Anything further?

2 MR. HELMEN: Not from the Public.

3 THE COURT: Thank you all for coming.

4 Our next Field Hearing is October 30th, 2017 at
5 the Muncie City Hall auditorium.

6 This hearing is continued to the Field Hearing
7 scheduled for October 30th, 2017.

8 Thank you.

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19 (FIELD HEARING ADJOURNED)

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23 (AND CONTINUED TO OCTOBER 30, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. (EDT) AT
24 THE MUNCIE CITY HALL AUDITORIUM, 300 NORTH HIGH STREET,
25 MUNCIE, INDIANA FOR ANOTHER PUBLIC FIELD HEARING)

\$	140 [3] 31/5 88/16 88/20	62 percent [2] 7/21 17/22
\$1,200 [2] 39/11 46/12	147 percent [3] 17/24 18/13 72/11	65 [1] 94/21
\$1,300 [1] 64/17	150 percent [1] 22/10	650th [1] 101/15
\$1,500 [1] 78/23	16 [1] 62/3	6:00 [2] 1/2 118/23
\$1.8 [1] 34/20	16 megawatts [2] 101/13 101/14	7
\$1.8 billion [1] 34/20	18 [3] 28/11 38/5 110/15	700 [1] 89/4
\$100 [1] 56/8	1941 [1] 15/9	735 [1] 43/6
\$100,000 [1] 74/8	1965 [1] 27/13	75 [1] 58/19
\$11 [1] 79/24	1978 [1] 19/4	7:25 [2] 53/25 54/2
\$12 [1] 79/24	1987 [1] 67/14	8
\$150 [1] 68/1	1993 [1] 59/17	83,000 tons [1] 34/16
\$17,200 [1] 86/19	1st [1] 62/19	84-year [1] 58/25
\$179 [1] 64/18	2	85 percent [1] 35/1
\$18 [2] 70/23 95/1	2,000 [1] 97/23	880 [1] 94/25
\$192 [1] 65/12	2,500 [1] 55/22	9
\$2 [1] 72/7	2,600 megawatts [1] 101/6	9 o'clock [1] 14/18
\$21,500 [1] 86/19	20 [2] 84/17 97/21	9 percent [1] 35/23
\$216 [1] 98/10	20 percent [2] 43/12 100/16	9,000 [1] 16/11
\$25 [5] 9/12 64/24 64/25 65/21 71/24	20-year [1] 49/18	90 degrees [1] 79/3
\$25 million [5] 9/12 64/24 64/25 65/21 71/24	2005 [1] 35/23	A
\$263 [1] 48/16	2007 [1] 17/22	A-l-b-e-r-t [1] 55/2
\$263 million [1] 48/16	2015 [1] 34/20	A-n-d-r-e-a [1] 11/24
\$285 [1] 98/11	2016 [4] 9/12 35/11 35/12 64/24	A-n-d-r-e-w-s [1] 76/14
\$3,000 [1] 15/21	2017 [11] 1/1 1/25 2/2 2/2 54/1 56/7 112/19	able [17] 30/22 33/22 34/2 34/23 34/25
\$30 [15] 7/16 23/4 29/24 31/6 38/16 46/3	113/5 118/4 118/7 118/23	36/14 38/18 38/21 39/6 39/7 62/5 68/24
46/12 65/18 68/5 68/9 68/13 68/14 68/18	2020 [1] 96/22	78/22 86/15 87/7 108/24 109/1
115/8 115/12	2025 [1] 96/22	about [55] 3/13 14/15 18/22 21/17 30/13
\$300 [2] 12/10 17/25	2050 [1] 35/5	31/14 31/15 31/16 31/20 31/21 39/9 40/6
\$36 [1] 98/19	21st [1] 32/2	40/11 42/5 43/14 45/20 49/2 49/10 49/18
\$365 [1] 29/25	23,000 tons [1] 34/16	49/25 50/1 53/4 55/22 58/19 59/14 60/11
\$412 [1] 98/9	24 [1] 48/1	62/9 62/10 64/23 67/24 68/1 73/16 73/19
\$440 [1] 65/11	24-years [1] 38/10	73/20 76/19 78/17 84/21 88/4 89/2 97/13
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ATTACHMENT KLO-7

STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PETITION OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER)	
COMPANY, AN INDIANA CORPORATION,)	
FOR (1) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS)	
RATES AND CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC)	
UTILITY SERVICE THROUGH A PHASE-IN)	
RATE ADJUSTMENT; (2) APPROVAL OF)	
REVISED DEPRECIATION RATES,)	
ACCOUNTING RELIEF, INCLUSION IN)	
BASIC RATES AND CHARGES OF)	
QUALIFIED POLLUTION CONTROL)	
PROPERTY, CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS,)	
AND COST OF BRINGING I&M'S SYSTEM)	CAUSE NO.
TO ITS PRESENT STATE OF)	44967
EFFICIENCY, RATE ADJUSTMENT)	
MECHANISM PROPOSALS, COST)	
DEFERRALS, MAJOR STORM DAMAGE)	
RESTORATION RESERVE AND)	
DISTRIBUTION VEGETATION MANAGEMENT)	
PROGRAM RESERVE, AND)	
AMORTIZATIONS; AND (3) FOR)	
APPROVAL OF NEW SCHEDULES OF)	
RATES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS)	

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC FIELD HEARING

Public Field Hearing held on October 30, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. (EDT)
at Muncie City Hall, 300 North High Street, Muncie, Indiana
before Commissioner James F. Huston, Commissioner David E.
Ziegner, Commissioner Sarah E. Freeman, Commissioner Angela Rapp
Weber, and Administrative Law Judge David E. Veleta (Presiding)

INDEX OF WITNESSES

ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC:

<u>Scott Rice-Snow:</u>	C- 3 to C- 5
<u>Wesley Rice-Snow:</u>	.C- 6
<u>Edward Long:</u>	.C- 7 to C- 9
<u>Jennifer Rice-Snow:</u>	.C-10 to C-12
<u>Arron Kidder:</u>	C-13
<u>Holly Hanauer:</u>	.C-14 to C-17
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<u>Sue Errington:</u>	.C-24 to C-25
<u>Debbie Huston:</u>	.C-26 to C-27
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<u>Philip Keith Bennett:</u>	.C-37 to C-39
<u>Judith Hill:</u>	.C-40 to C-42
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<u>Mike White:</u>	C-46 to C-47
<u>Chester Taylor:</u>	.C-48 to C-49
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ATTACHMENT KLO-8

1 Muncie, Indiana
2 October 30, 2017
3 6:00 P.M. (EDT)
4

5 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DAVID E. VELETA (THE
6 COURT): This is a Field Hearing before the Indiana Utility
7 Regulatory Commission in a cause docketed before the
8 Commission as Cause No. 44967 in a cause captioned as
9 "Petition of Indiana Michigan Power Company, an Indiana
10 corporation, for (1) authority to increase its rates and
11 charges for electric utility service through a phase-in
12 rate adjustment; (2) approval of revised depreciation
13 rates, accounting relief, inclusion in basic rates and
14 charges of qualified pollution control property, clean
15 energy projects and cost of bringing I&M's system to its
16 present state of efficiency, rate adjustment mechanism
17 proposals, cost deferrals, major storm damage restoration
18 reserve and distribution vegetation management program
19 reserve, and amortizations; and (3) for approval of new
20 schedules of rates, rules, and regulations."

21 Notice of the time and place of the hearing was
22 given as provided by law by publication in Marion County in
23 the Indianapolis Star on September 13, 2017, in Allen
24 County in the Journal Gazette and Times Sentinel on
25 September 12, 2017, and in Delaware County in the Star

1 Press on October 18, 2017.

2 Each of said newspapers is a newspaper of general
3 circulation, printed and published in the English language,
4 and said publications were made at least ten days prior to
5 the date of the Field Hearing.

6 The proofs of publication of the notices have
7 been received by the Commission and are now incorporated
8 into the record of this cause by reference and placed in
9 the official files of the Commission.

10 Notice has also been given to the Indiana Office
11 of Utility Consumer Counselor and other interested parties.

12 May we have appearances, please?

13 LORRAINE HITZ-BRADLEY: On behalf of the Public,
14 Lorraine Hitz-Bradley, Indiana Office of Utility Consumer
15 Counselor, Indianapolis, Indiana.

16 JEFFREY M. PEABODY: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 On behalf of Petitioner, Indiana Michigan Power
18 Company, Jeffrey M. Peabody with the law firm of Barnes &
19 Thornburg, LLP, Indianapolis, Indiana.

20 MS. TUCKER: Thank you, Your Honor.

21 On behalf of Citizens Action Coalition, the
22 Indiana Coalition for Human Services, Indiana Community
23 Action Association, and the Sierra Club, Margo L. Tucker.

24 THE COURT: Everyone that signed up to speak
25 tonight, if you could stand so you can be sworn in.

1 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO 30 PEOPLE)

2

3 THE COURT: Ms. Hitz-Bradley, whenever you're
4 ready.

5 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 At this time, I call forward Scott Rice-Snow.

7

8 **SCOTT RICE-SNOW**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
9 Public, having been first duly sworn,
10 testified as follows:

11

12 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

13 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

14 Q Mr. Snow -- or Rice-Snow, I apologize.

15 A That's okay.

16 Q Could you state your name and spell it for the Court
17 Reporter, please?

18 A Yes. My name is Scott Rice-Snow. It's S-c-o-t-t
19 R-i-c-e-S-n-o-w.

20 Q Thank you. Go ahead and address your comments to the
21 Commission, please.

22 A As an earth scientist, I continually recognize the
23 need for our state to reduce carbon emissions and reduce
24 use of inherently dirty fossil fuels.

25 As we try and move toward the future, two

1 excellent strategies in doing this are to move to
2 renewables especially at times when outdated major
3 facilities need replacing. We had a wonderful example of
4 this in Muncie a few years ago as Ball State University
5 installed a geothermal heating and cooling system at a time
6 when they were already going to have to replace very
7 expensive boilers if they were to stay using coal.

8 The second excellent strategy is to pursue energy
9 efficiency as well as trying to develop other sources of
10 energy. This is the low hanging fruit in attempting to
11 switch our energy profile, and we should make every effort
12 to do this.

13 As our state needs to pursue these goals, we
14 should have our energy utilities that are entrusted with
15 monopoly status being partners, even leaders, not the ones
16 dragging their feet.

17 The structure of this proposed rate increase
18 would undermine the goals of energy efficiency and
19 investment in renewables. Their benefits to consumers
20 would be greatly reduced by the huge fixed charge that is
21 proposed. This is not good for Indiana. We all benefit
22 from reducing power demand, reducing pollution, and the
23 resiliency that comes with distributed energy generation.

24 We need initiatives to have more energy
25 efficiency that are supported by the utilities, real

1 incentives, not just emails and small kits. We need the
2 option and encouragement for consumers to share solar
3 panels and other renewable energy facilities for local
4 generation.

5 Rather than take more money out of our community,
6 how about abandoning the toxic, expensive Rockport coal
7 plant and bringing renewable energy and its jobs to our
8 community. AEP in Ohio has invested much more in solar,
9 bringing great jobs to that state.

10 I and many people have asked I&M to retire the
11 Rockport plant for years. Although I&M has done some small
12 renewable investments -- we're in their solar program --
13 they continue to rely heavily on coal.

14 I ask the IURC to deny this rate increase in
15 Cause No. 44967. We need a better deal for Indiana's
16 citizenry.

17 Thank you.

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(WITNESS SCOTT RICE-SNOW EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Wesley Rice-Snow?

2

3 **WESLEY RICE-SNOW**, a witness appearing on behalf of the

4 Public, having been first duly sworn,

5 testified as follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q Go ahead and state your name for the record, please,
10 and spell it for the Court Reporter.

11 A Good evening. Wesley Rice-Snow, W-e-s-l-e-y
12 R-i-c-e-S-n-o-w.

13 Q Go ahead and address your comments to the Commission,
14 please.

15 A Thank you for hearing me, Commissioners, this evening.

16 I am a part of Muncie, Indiana's youth. We will
17 be the main decision-makers in our future. Please remember
18 us in these choices you are making. Please deny the rate
19 increase in Cause No. 44967.

20 Thank you.

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25 **(WITNESS WESLEY RICE-SNOW EXCUSED)**

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: It's unclear whether or not
2 Pastor Edward Long wants to speak. He did not indicate on
3 his form.

4 If you would like to speak, come forward, sir.

5

6 **EDWARD LONG**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
7 having been first duly sworn, testified as
8 follows:

9

10 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

11 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

12 Q Thank you. If you could, please state your name and
13 spell it for the Court Reporter.

14 A Spell first? Spell it? E-d-w-a-r-d L-o-n-g.

15 Q Go ahead and address your comments to the Commission.

16 A Okay. My comments are, first of all, is there one of
17 the Commissioners that's sick? I thought there were four.
18 There is one sick? Okay. That's what I wanted to know
19 what was going on with the other Commissioner.

20 No. 1, do the Commissioners know all of the
21 expenses of I&M electric power company has to pay out? Do
22 the Commissioners know that? Is that available to you or
23 possibly available?

24 Q Sir, we can't answer questions, and the Commission
25 can't answer questions from the Bench, I'm sorry, because

1 this is a court proceeding, so it would be like asking the
2 judge a question.

3 A You can't do that; right?

4 Q Well, you can do that, but you won't get an answer.

5 A Okay, that's fine. That's fine. If I don't get an
6 answer, at least it will put it on the minds of those who
7 are here.

8 Basically, the questions I have is about the
9 expenses of the I&M Power Company. The question is: Have
10 the I&M given you the expenses that they have either last
11 year or this year, and I know you can't answer.

12 Also, is there a way -- and I know it's going to
13 be a phased-in -- my understanding a phased-in increase if
14 the increase comes about. Is there a way to phase in on an
15 income basis the increase if that happens? Is there a way
16 to do that? Is that a possibility?

17 Also, the other one had to basically do with also
18 the expenses that are occurred that the I&M Power Company
19 may not know those expenses are there. In other words, are
20 there mystery expenses that come in unknowing to I&M? I
21 think you can understand what I'm saying, and that's the
22 basis of what I wanted to tell or at least you to consider
23 or ask between yourselves when you make the decision
24 because I know you can't make a complete decision if you
25 don't have all of the information.

1 That's what I really want to say to them.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Thank you very much, sir.

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25 (WITNESS EDWARD LONG EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Jennifer Rice-Snow?

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3 **JENNIFER RICE-SNOW**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
4 Public, having been first duly sworn,
5 testified as follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q I sense a pattern.

10 If you could state your name and spell it for the
11 Court Reporter, please.

12 A I'm Jennifer Rice-Snow, J-e-n-n-i-f-e-r
13 R-i-c-e-S-n-o-w, and we did ride in the same car.

14 Q Please state your comments to the Commission.

15 A Okay. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this
16 important question.

17 I'm a United Methodist, a member of High Street
18 United Methodist Church. I volunteer with our financial
19 assistance program for people with low incomes. Sitting
20 and talking with people who must ask strangers for money, I
21 see clearly what I think we all know; Muncie is
22 economically burdened right now. People struggle to pay
23 bills; businesses struggle to stay solvent. Sometimes they
24 fail like the Marsh grocery stores.

25 If I&M truly needs more money, I request that

1 they take it from their hundreds of millions of dollars of
2 profit. They might also decrease their lobbying budget.
3 As a protected monopoly, I&M has a responsibility to build
4 up our local community, not take more from it.

5 Getting ready for this hearing, I talked to a lot
6 of small business owners. Preparing to speak tonight, I
7 couldn't stop thinking about how much Indiana Michigan's
8 requested rate increase would hurt these small business
9 owners.

10 Despite our economic struggles, we have some
11 great local businesses in the downtown. We have a local
12 grocer, several jewelry stores, a new dance studio, a home
13 decor boutique, a handmade soap store, women's clothes
14 stores, some great restaurants, just a partial list. In
15 difficult economic times, these businesses are sticking
16 their necks out to make our community more vibrant and
17 distinctive. They're creating local jobs, and they're
18 keeping their profits in our community.

19 Thinking about that 25 to 30 extra dollars that
20 Indiana Michigan Power wants from us each month, if I lose
21 \$30, I don't buy that nice pillow or that bracelet or that
22 dinner out. When you multiply that by the -- all of us who
23 can only use Indiana Michigan Power, that's the difference
24 between success and failure for these local gems, and when
25 small businesses fail, our whole community is diminished.

1 Please do not impose this extra burden on our low
2 income and fixed income neighbors. Please do not impose
3 this extra burden on our local small businesses.

4 Thank you again for taking the time to have a
5 hearing in Muncie. Please deny Indiana Michigan Power's
6 request for a rate increase in Case 44967.

7 Thank you.

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(WITNESS JENNIFER RICE-SNOW EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Arron Kidder?

2

3 **ARRON KIDDER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q If you could state your name and spell it for the
10 Court Reporter, please.

11 A Sure, that's Arron Kidder, A-r-r-o-n K-i-d-d-e-r.

12 Q Go ahead and address your comments to the Commission.

13 A Yeah, I'm here this evening representing the Mayor's
14 office here for the City of Muncie, Indiana.

15 We just wanted to state for the record that the
16 Mayor's office is vehemently opposed to any proposed rate
17 increase to the citizens of the City of Muncie. We feel
18 that any increase would be an unnecessary burden to both
19 our residents and our commercial institutions.

20 Thank you.

21

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25 **(WITNESS ARRON KIDDER EXCUSED)**

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Holly Hanauer?

2

3 **HOLLY HANAUER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q And if you could state your name and spell it for the
10 Court Reporter, please.

11 A Holly Hanauer, H-o-l-l-y H-a-n-a-u-e-r.

12 Q Thank you. Go ahead and address your comments to the
13 Commission.

14 A Thank you all for your time here tonight. I'm very
15 opposed to the rate increase proposed in Cause No. 44967.

16 Personally, I'm very frugal and energy conscious.
17 My daily routine always includes making choices to reduce
18 my energy use like hanging laundry outside in the summer,
19 turning off lights as I leave a room, wearing warm clothes
20 in the winter and keeping the thermostat low, turning down
21 the thermostat in zones of the house that are unused, using
22 the AC on only the hottest days of the summer, unplugging
23 our second small refrigerator when it isn't needed.

24 While I know that these energy conservation
25 practices are important, they only make small differences

1 in my bill. Therefore, with the large increase in the
2 fixed monthly charge that is being proposed, the monetary
3 incentive to conserve is pretty much negated, but I'm
4 fortunate.

5 Our home is well built and insulated. We have
6 gas heat and a gas water heater, and there are just two of
7 us in the home now, so our electric bill is pretty
8 manageable, but as a member of a community with a high
9 poverty rate, I'm very concerned about my neighbors. I
10 know that people with low incomes or fixed incomes simply
11 cannot pay higher bills; they struggle as it is.

12 I volunteer at The Soup Kitchen of Muncie, and I
13 see people in this situation every week. Their daily
14 choices go far beyond just turning the lights off as they
15 leave a room. They're trying to figure out whether to pay
16 a utility bill or eat that day, whether to see a doctor or
17 buy that medication or maybe just let an illness go
18 untreated with complicated consequences.

19 For a number of years, I volunteered with Home
20 Savers, an organization that does basic repairs for low
21 income homeowners. I saw so many homes that desperately
22 needed a lot of work to make them more energy efficient,
23 and the owners simply couldn't afford to have that work
24 done. You wouldn't even know where to start. Instead,
25 they face enormous utility bills, especially in the winter

1 when so much heat is just going through their roof, walls,
2 windows, or doors.

3 These folks simply don't have the extra \$25 a
4 month that I&M's CEO Toby Thomas says this increase will
5 cost the average customer. In fact, their increases may be
6 well above that average since their homes are so
7 inefficient. I wonder if I&M executives and shareholders
8 really have any idea what life is like at these income
9 levels and how many of their customers are in this
10 situation. After all, Delaware County has one of the
11 highest poverty rates in the State.

12 I don't expect I&M to solve poverty; that is not
13 my point. I do expect my utility companies, which provide
14 services that we all depend on for our modern daily life,
15 to be highly responsible in their business practices and
16 planning and not just to and for the benefit of their
17 shareholders but for the greater common good.

18 We've all known about the threats of climate
19 change for decades now. We've all known that the Rockport
20 coal plant is a super polluter. We've all known that we
21 need to shift to renewables and stop burning coal, and when
22 I say all, that includes I&M. No one can plead ignorance
23 here. The scientific research has been abundant and very
24 clear. I'm glad that I&M is finally acknowledging the need
25 to retire Rockport, but that should have been planned for a

1 long time ago. To speed up the depreciation schedule now
2 and foist that cost on to customers through this rate
3 increase is not responsible and not just, and this rate
4 increase comes on the heels of other attacks on renewables
5 and efficiency.

6 The utility lobby managed to do away with net
7 metering despite widespread citizen opposition to SB 309,
8 and well before that, they did away with mandatory
9 efficiency programs, that which I&M now offers voluntarily
10 is pretty puny compared to the need. Powerful monopolies
11 with captive customers must be held responsible.

12 Please deny this request.

13 Thank you.

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(WITNESS HOLLY HANAUER EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Rachel Fredericks?

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3 **RACHEL FREDERICKS**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
4 Public, having been first duly sworn,
5 testified as follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q If you could state your name and spell it for the
10 Court Reporter, please.

11 A Of course. I'm Rachel Fredericks, that's R-a-c-h-e-l
12 F-r-e-d-e-r-i-c-k-s.

13 Q Go ahead and direct your comments to the Commission.

14 A Thank you.

15 I live here in Muncie, and I'm a Professor at
16 Ball State, although I don't speak for the university.

17 I am here on behalf of my students and students
18 all across the State of Indiana who can't be here tonight
19 because they're studying, or maybe they're working at their
20 part-time job, or maybe they're working at their full-time
21 job because a lot of my students manage to somehow keep a
22 full-time job and still pursue their degrees.

23 For many of my students, the proposed rate hike
24 is a lot of money. For some of them, that money will be
25 the difference between continuing their education and

1 dropping out. For others, the only way to get more money
2 for a higher electric bill is through taking out more
3 loans. We already know that many students across Indiana
4 are already massively burdened by student loan debt, and
5 adding more to that debt just for an electric bill seems
6 like a terrible idea. Of course, those additional loans
7 mean waiting even longer before my students are ready
8 financially to start a family or buy a house or start
9 saving for retirement, and for what?

10 I honestly can't see what this proposed rate
11 increase would be worth, what it -- what would justify it.
12 As far as I can tell, it would be to raise profits for
13 shareholders and to make up for some poor business
14 decisions.

15 Of course, all of this isn't even to mention the
16 costs that my students and their children are going to be
17 paying for years because of pollution coming out of places
18 like the Rockport plant. That pollution creates health
19 problems as we all know, and we're going to have to pay for
20 those health costs some day, somehow on top of an increased
21 electric bill.

22 So I think it's time to see this rate increase
23 for what it is; it's not only a devastating blow to
24 thousands of good people in Indiana who are already living
25 in poverty or struggling to make ends meet, it's also a way

1 of charging proportionately more for the people who use the
2 least electricity, and it's just another way to mortgage or
3 outright steal the bright future right out from under many
4 of our talented and hardworking young people, people who I
5 see in my office every day.

6 I appreciate you being here tonight, but I also
7 want to say that I'm going to do everything in my power to
8 stop the proposed rate increase in its tracks, and I'd like
9 to ask the room: Who's with me?

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(WITNESS RACHEL FREDERICKS EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Daniel Stallings?

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3 **DANIEL STALLINGS**, a witness appearing on behalf of the

4 Public, having been first duly sworn,

5 testified as follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q Good evening.

10 Could you state your name for the record and
11 spell it for the Court Reporter?

12 A Yes, Daniel Stallings, spelled S-t-a-l-l-i-n-g-s.

13 Q Go ahead and address your comments to the Commission.

14 A Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak with
15 you, and thank you for the opportunity for hosting a
16 meeting here in Muncie in Delaware County.

17 As a resident, parent, and taxpayer as well as a
18 business owner, I am concerned about the impact of this
19 increase on our community.

20 As an education advocate, I'm concerned about the
21 impact that this rate increase will have on families of the
22 Muncie and Delaware County community, especially given the
23 high poverty rates and low socioeconomic status our
24 families experience.

25 As you well know and has been shared previously,

1 Muncie community schools has over 70 percent of our
2 families qualify for free and reduced lunch, and this would
3 be a burden on our families in this community.

4 Additionally, professionally as an investment
5 advisor, I want to share with you that I'm aware of the
6 duty that corporations have to deliver a profit to
7 shareholders. However, I also know that Indiana Michigan
8 Power, like many other utilities, are very profitable and
9 continue to add value without this increase.

10 Further, I know that investing in long-term
11 solutions like renewable sources of energy yield better
12 value to investors, and renewable energy sources reduce the
13 health burdens of polluting energy, sources like coal
14 burning plants. These health costs are passed along to our
15 society and are experience -- and are expensive yet silent
16 expenses to our community.

17 I request that you reject Case No. 44967.

18 Thank you very much.

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(WITNESS DANIEL STALLINGS EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Could Representative Sue
2 Errington step forward, please?

3 Full disclosure, Representative Errington and I
4 know each other from another life.

5 THE COURT: Representative Errington, were you
6 here when we swore in the crowd?

7 Were you sworn in earlier?

8 MS. ERRINGTON: No, I arrived late.

9 THE COURT: Everyone else that -- I know we just
10 got another stack of people that signed up to speak.

11 If you weren't -- if you signed up to speak but
12 you weren't sworn in earlier, could you go ahead and stand
13 now, and we'll just swear you all in now.

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15 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

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1 **SUE ERRINGTON**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
2 having been first duly sworn, testified as
3 follows:
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5 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

6 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

7 Q If you could state your name and spell it for the
8 Court Reporter, please.

9 A My name is Sue Errington, S-u-e E-r-r-i-n-g-t-o-n.

10 Q Go ahead and address your comments to the Commission.

11 A Thank you, and thank you for holding this hearing in
12 Muncie. I realize that you're only required to have one
13 hearing in a region, and that's in the largest city, and
14 Muncie isn't the largest city, so it's I think important
15 that you have chosen to have three hearings in our region
16 so that you can hear from people who may not be able to
17 travel to Fort Wayne without a significant expense to them,
18 so again, thank you for coming here.

19 I would like to add my voice to those that you've
20 already heard who have requested that you turn down this
21 rate increase request. I think they have given some
22 excellent reasons for why it's unmerited. The poverty that
23 we find in our city -- And my district is totally within
24 the City limits of Muncie, so the people who have talked
25 about the high rate of poverty are the people that I

1 represent. They're the people that I knock on their doors
2 at election time, and I see and talk with them about their
3 difficulties in daily life, and there's nothing really more
4 daily than having your lights on or not, and I think that
5 there are other sources that I&M could be using to pay for
6 the decisions that they've made and the increase that they
7 think they need. I don't believe it should be on the backs
8 of the ratepayers.

9 So thank you very much for your time, and I
10 appreciate being able to speak.

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(WITNESS SUE ERRINGTON EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Debbie Huston?

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3 **DEBBIE HUSTON**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q And if you could state your name and spell it for the
10 Court Reporter, please.

11 A Debbie Huston, D-e-b-b-i-e H-u-s-t-o-n.

12 Q And you can go --

13 A And I'm not related to you.

14 I work for Muncie community schools, but I'm not
15 here for them.

16 Three years ago, I opened a food pantry at
17 Southside Middle School -- and I'm sorry if I start crying.
18 85 percent of our students are on free and reduced lunch.
19 When I started the program, I started with four children on
20 the program. Now I have over -- I have 200 children on the
21 backpack program with 30 on a waiting list, so that means
22 each Friday, those kids are waiting to get food so they can
23 have something to eat when they go home.

24 At the same time, we started a clothing bank at
25 our school, and I daily give children shoes, clothing, and

1 coats so they have something to wear and to keep warm. It
2 isn't just Southside; it is all over Muncie community
3 schools or even the outlying areas.

4 At the same time, we started a family food
5 giveaway, and so once a month, I have families -- Muncie
6 community school families that come and get food so their
7 children can eat. They come once a month, and I have a
8 line for the whole two hours so their children can eat.
9 Daily, I have children come up to me and ask to be put on
10 the backpack program so they can have food to eat when they
11 get home for the weekend.

12 So that \$30 is a lot. It will make those parents
13 choose whether to get -- not to feed their children because
14 they're already struggling, but to have -- to decide if
15 they're going to have the lights on so the children can do
16 their work or have heat or even eat.

17 So when you vote, please think of the children
18 and know that they are hungry, and by voting to have the
19 increase, they are even going to be more hungry.

20 Thank you.

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(WITNESS DEBBIE HUSTON EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Stephen Brand?

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3 **STEPHEN BRAND**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q State your name and spell it for the Court Reporter,
10 please?

11 A Stephen Brand, S-t-e-p-h-e-n B-r-a-n-d.

12 Q Go ahead and address your comments to the Commission.

13 A I'm a customer of I&M as a private citizen as well as
14 a business. I don't have much value to add to the comments
15 that have already been made from a private citizen
16 perspective.

17 I'm currently the General Manager for Magna
18 International of Magna Powertrain USA. We have two
19 manufacturing locations here in Muncie, Indiana as well as
20 a warehouse.

21 The way I understand it, this is supposed to be
22 an average overall rate increase of about 20 percent,
23 although the rates would vary depending on residential or
24 your business tariff.

25 My understanding is my business tariff will go up

1 25.6 percent, and on a potential multi-million dollar
2 annual utility bill, that's a very large increase.
3 Businesses must remain competitive, and I would ask the
4 Commission to please consider competitiveness and the
5 impact that it would have on existing businesses and
6 potential new business development. We have to remain
7 competitive as a state, and in the case of advanced
8 manufacturing, we have to remain competitive in our nation
9 and in the world.

10 I would only ask that you consider the
11 competitiveness of this rate increase and the impact that
12 it would have on businesses.

13 Thank you.

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(WITNESS STEPHEN BRAND EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: James Maul?

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3 **JAMES MAUL**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q State your name and spell it for the Court Reporter,
10 please.

11 A Okay. It's James, J-a-m-e-s, Maul, M-a-u-l. It's
12 what bears do to people.

13 Q Go ahead and address your comments to the Commission.

14 A I'm retired; my wife's retired. My wife and I are
15 both fortunate in the fact that not only do we both get
16 social security, but we also get a small pension. We live
17 in the Beverly Hills addition on the south side of Muncie;
18 that doesn't mean I'm rich. We've lived there since 1984.

19 I would like to call your attention to the four
20 bullet points on the back of Page 1, the third being that
21 they -- I&M is asking for a 19.7 percent increase in
22 revenue, \$263.2 million. Now, I know compared to a 20
23 trillion dollar debt, that's not a lot of money, but to
24 Indiana, that's a lot of money, and then I look at the
25 fourth bullet point, and it states the things that they

1 want to do with this money. I would think that what they
2 have listed there they could do all those things for \$263
3 million in one year, I would think. So what are they going
4 to do years after that because as you know, they never come
5 back and say we're going to decrease your rate, okay?

6 So me personally, I'm just saying to you I think
7 19.7 percent is totally, totally unreasonable. I'm sure
8 there's not a person in here who wouldn't like to have
9 their revenue that they get each year be increased by
10 20 percent. I would be tickled to death with 10 percent,
11 okay?

12 So I'm not one to complain and not have a
13 solution, so I'm going to challenge you to look at this
14 very hard, and if you do grant them an increase, I'm going
15 to ask you to hold it to 3.5 percent and make them find
16 ways to be more cost effective with the revenue that they
17 get. I have to do that every year. My revenue doesn't go
18 up, but when my expenses go up, then I have to get
19 creative, and I have to figure out how I'm going to make
20 things work out, so I'm just asking you to do that, please.

21 Thank you.

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(WITNESS JAMES MAUL EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: John Eliades? I may have
2 mangled your name, so I apologize.

3

4 **JOHN ELIADES**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
5 having been first duly sworn, testified as
6 follows:

7

8 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

9 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

10 Q Would you state your name and spell it for the Court
11 Reporter, please?

12 A John Eliades, J-o-h-n E-l-i-a-d-e-s.

13 Q Go ahead and --

14 A As a practicing physician for the last 37 years in
15 Muncie, it is amazing the capability of our local citizens,
16 but I have to tell you a short story about a patient a
17 couple weeks ago.

18 She -- I treat wound problems in the elderly, and
19 she came in with an early infection in her leg. I gave her
20 antibiotics which usually work very well. She came back
21 the next week, and it was worse. After cajoling and
22 encouraging her, we found out she never got the antibiotics
23 because she could not afford the \$4.00 for the
24 prescription. She was waiting until the end of the month.
25 Of course in the meantime, her leg is getting worse.

1 Fortunately, we have generous pockets in the clinic. We
2 managed to give her enough money so she could get her
3 medications.

4 Unfortunately, this area of Indiana is less
5 affluent than the rest. Our household median income at
6 least in 2015 was \$40,600 versus the U.S. median of
7 \$56,516. The percentage of poverty in Delaware County in
8 2015 was 23.4 percent compared to the U.S. poverty rate of
9 13.5 percent. The lack of affluence is also reflected in
10 the average homes. In Muncie in Delaware County, our new
11 home prices are about \$113,000. The national average is at
12 least double that, and this pattern is not just in the --
13 for the young. If you look at the graph I submitted, in
14 every age category, you see a major difference in the price
15 of the homes that people own in this area compared to the
16 rest of Indiana.

17 This is also reflect [verbatim] not only
18 homeownership but rentals. We're way below the average in
19 Indiana because we can't afford it, that kind of rent, as
20 the rest can. Our unemployment rates -- I've been here for
21 37 years -- have been consistently higher than the rest of
22 Indiana and let's not even compare it to the rest of the
23 U.S. The last numbers I have was 4.6 percent in 2015
24 compared to Indiana's 4.0.

25 In summary, our local citizens are poor; they

1 cannot afford this proposed extraordinary profiteering of
2 Indiana Michigan electric.

3 I therefore request that you deny such an
4 increase as per 44967.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Thank you, sir.

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25 (WITNESS JOHN ELIADES EXCUSED)

1 THE COURT: We have some seats available it looks
2 like on the sides if people want to take a seat, and also
3 if you could maybe -- it looks like in the front row, we
4 have some seats, and over on the right and on the left,
5 there's some seats also if people in the back want to --
6 there's some seats in the back -- my back left also, and
7 then there's some seats up here in the front.

8 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: JaQuinton Braswell?

9 Jorden Giger?

10

11 **JORDEN GIGER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
12 having been first duly sworn, testified as
13 follows:

14

15 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

16 **QUESTION BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

17 Q Can you state your name and spell it, please?

18 A My name is Jorden Giger, that's J-o-r-d-e-n G-i-g-e-r.
19 I'm here to speak on Cause No. 44967. I'm also from South
20 Bend, Indiana. I spoke at the South Bend hearing, so I'll
21 be fairly brief.

22 So like Wesley, I'm here to speak on behalf of
23 myself and other young people in my community and
24 throughout the State of Indiana. There are many young
25 people in my community and throughout the State who are

1 struggling, just to be frank, living paycheck to paycheck
2 and also working two to three jobs to make ends meet.

3 I'm concerned about the people living in low
4 income housing who are required to keep the utilities as
5 spelled out in their leases in order to maintain their
6 housing. If they can't keep the utilities on, more often
7 than not, they're forced to move or they might lose their
8 Section 8 voucher. This is especially the case and it's
9 especially dangerous for single women with children who are
10 living in such housing.

11 I think it's also important to mention or to
12 acknowledge the impact that these rate increases could have
13 on folks living in our felon community. As you know, many
14 felons are already struggling just to get housing and to
15 get employment, and so this just creates an additional
16 barrier for them that to me is uncalled for.

17 In certain parts of our city and in certain
18 communities in South Bend, we have 55 percent of community
19 members living at or below the poverty line. In some
20 communities, we also have a 20 percent unemployment rate,
21 and so by making -- by allowing these increases to go
22 through, you're putting many people's lives in jeopardy, so
23 I just strongly encourage that you all not allow these
24 rates to go up. Thank you.

25 (WITNESS JORDEN GIGER EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Philip Bennett?

2

3 **PHILIP KEITH BENNETT**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
4 Public, having been first duly sworn,
5 testified as follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q Okay, sir, if you could state your name and spell it
10 for the Court Reporter, and then you can address the
11 Commission.

12 A My name is Philip Keith Bennett, P-h-i-l-i-p K-e-i-t-h
13 B-e-n-n-e-t-t.

14 Q Go ahead and address your comments to the --

15 A Okay, first of all, I would like to express
16 appreciation for the opportunity to speak and express
17 appreciation to I&M for the service they provide. It's
18 wonderful to walk into a house and have lights and warmth
19 and be able to cook and to have the refrigeration and those
20 things, and I do admire and respect and pray for those
21 service crew men and women who go out when there's been a
22 storm and knocked out the electricity, and they're out
23 there in the worst of elements on our behalf in getting
24 power restored, and I do pray for them and I'm thinking
25 well for their safety because that's not an easy job, so I

1 do appreciate that very much.

2 I am a retired pastor. I pastored here in Muncie
3 for ten years, and interestingly enough in the inner city
4 of South Bend for eight years in the second worst crime
5 district. I lived there and pastored there for eight
6 years. For a period of time there, I was more of a social
7 worker than a pastor. We had people pouring in the doors
8 needing help with utilities, shoes, food, you name it.

9 I believe that this -- that I know that Muncie
10 likewise has -- because of the removal of the manufacturing
11 community and so forth, the poverty level here and the
12 struggle for many people is profound, and I really think
13 that this kind of a request for that amount of an increase
14 is way overboard. It's not justified in light of the fact
15 that they have \$840 million already in surplus funds, and I
16 don't know about you, but my mother trained me to watch
17 Wheel of Fortune. I enjoy that; I don't know if you do,
18 too. I like Jeopardy a little better, but it irritates me
19 when the one who has a lead that's overwhelming, they can't
20 possibly lose, and yet here comes a \$3,000 one or the
21 closing one, and they're quick to call in and win money
22 while the other two people there have none or very little.
23 To me, it looks like -- rather than need, it looks like
24 greed, and that's what I'm concerned about here. Greed
25 helps no one. It doesn't help anyone; it doesn't. It

1 certainly doesn't help us who are struggling.

2 I'm on a retired income. That kind of an
3 increase would make a real major adjustment in my budget,
4 and so I'll appreciate it if you will -- I do want to
5 protest Cause No. 44967 and join my voice to the rest that
6 you have heard in opposition to it.

7 Thank you.

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(PHILIP KEITH BENNETT EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Judith Hill?

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3 **JUDITH HILL**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q If you could, state your name and spell it for the
10 Court Reporter, and then you can address your comments to
11 the Commission.

12 A Judith Hill, J-u-d-i-t-h H-i-l-l.

13 Q Go ahead, ma'am.

14 A Okay. The first thing I want to say is the electric
15 company is a monopoly, and we all know that if there's no
16 competition, you can do what you want to do, and in this
17 case, it has to be not caring for the customers in order to
18 want such a large rate increase.

19 Now I have watched for a whole year and more than
20 that because I keep my bills and watch what they add on to
21 it because they add on things that we don't even know what
22 they there for, and like on the current bill for this last
23 year, like this nuclear plant life cycle cost, which is
24 \$17.21, we don't even know what that is. It didn't used to
25 be there, but all of a sudden, when things -- more money is

1 needed, they somehow come upon these extra costs. We also
2 have a Cook nuclear plant life cycle which is only 18
3 cents. We also have energy efficiency program costs. Now
4 what is that? It's \$19.93. Now, if it was energy
5 efficient for each of our bills, seem like that would be
6 minus 19. Then, we have the PMJ costs which is \$20.45.
7 Clean rider coal, which is \$1.48. We don't have customer
8 service which you used to would have to pay somebody to sit
9 there to pay our bill, but you call and you get a
10 recording, and you can't even ask them a question, and then
11 you have to stay on the line, and a lot of these people
12 have these telephones with so many limited minutes, the
13 government phone. Well, they run all their minutes out
14 trying to wait on somebody to ask the question about their
15 bill.

16 Also where I live at is dark, so when I moved
17 there in '73 -- '83, I'm sorry, I had a pole light put on
18 in the alley which illuminates the whole -- for everybody,
19 but I pay the bill, and the bill keeps going up more and
20 more. Plus, the longer the dark, this is in the winter,
21 the higher the bill is, plus it's taxed separate than your
22 regular bill.

23 So for everyone in this community, I would say we
24 need to reject this rate, ask the Commissioners and whoever
25 else to reject such a high rate increase because I have

1 never heard of something where all of a sudden, we need
2 this money. For what? Other than for profit, and so I am
3 saying for the people -- I'm a retired x-ray technologist,
4 so -- and I also know even though I get a pension, it's
5 entirely different than getting a paycheck every week. So
6 it affects not only us but for the lower income people
7 because we cannot get any help, and also one more thing,
8 even though we turn our heat down, it doesn't matter. The
9 cost is still the same.

10 Thank you.

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(WITNESS JUDITH HILL EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Yatish Joshi?

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3 **YATISH JOSHI**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q If you could state your name and spell it for the
10 Court Reporter, and then you can address your comments to
11 the Commission.

12 A I think you did an excellent job with my name.

13 Q Well, the Court Reporter still needs to know how to
14 spell it.

15 A Yes, my name is Yatish, Y-a-t-i-s-h, Joshi, J-o-s-h-i.
16 I am from South Bend, Indiana. I'm also candidate for
17 Indiana second congressman district, and also I'm a -- my
18 small business GTA Containers and Dearborn Crane in South
19 Bend and Mishawaka.

20 I'm here today to speak on behalf of citizens of
21 second district and the State of Indiana for Cause No.
22 44967. Last month, residents in my hometown of South Bend
23 spoke against this rate increase for electric utility
24 services which are provided by Indiana Michigan Power
25 Company. They expressed serious concern about the monopoly

1 I&M has over electric utilities and the lack of public
2 oversight over these services.

3 If you look at the fact sheets, bullet point No.
4 1, the rate would increase the flat monthly residential
5 customers charges from \$7.30 to \$18, and for the small
6 commercial customer would rise from \$9.70 to \$19, more than
7 100 percent increase.

8 Seniors, veterans, and disabled residents of this
9 great state shared stories about how they're unable to pay
10 for these rate increases because they live on fixed
11 incomes, how to pay for expensive medications, and are
12 barely able to afford the rising cost of living. In St.
13 Joe County where I live, 53 percent of families can barely
14 afford to survive on a household budget. 53 percent of
15 families.

16 Please allow me to tell you a heartbreaking
17 story. A young woman in my district talked about how she
18 fell into homelessness and lived in her car because she was
19 a single working mother and could not pay her utility
20 bills. As a result, she was evicted from her home because
21 she owed money to I&M and unable to pay her bill in order
22 to maintain her residence in her low income housing. This
23 financial challenges for many in our states are real.
24 Poverty is real, and many in our state cannot afford extra
25 cost burden.

1 I&M management made big mistake. They should own
2 up to their own mistakes and cannot and should not be
3 allowed to pass it on to the hardworking people of Indiana
4 and Michigan.

5 I ask that you not let this rate increase -- and
6 listen to the voices and concern of the people of our fine
7 state. In fact, I suggest I&M should reduce the rate.

8 Thank you.

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(WITNESS YATISH JOSHI EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Mike White?

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3 **MIKE WHITE**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q If you could state your name and spell it for the
10 record, and then you can address your comments to the
11 Commission.

12 A Good evening. Mike White, M-i-k-e W-h-i-t-e.

13 Q Thank you.

14 A I rise today in opposition to the rate increase
15 requested by I&M, and the simple reason I can put in one
16 word, Rockport.

17 In 2012, as the state representative for the City
18 of Muncie, I opposed efforts to lock Indiana and our
19 ratepayers into coal contracts that were not to our
20 benefit, that would raise the rates, that would lock us
21 into this plant for a long time, and, in addition, \$120
22 million to go to consultants.

23 There is no question that rates will go up
24 because some things -- some fixed costs will go up, but
25 rates that go up because of bad business decisions, because

1 of holding on to technology and plants that should have
2 been resolved ten years ago or five years ago, now they
3 come before us with this burden, and they want us to share
4 in it.

5 The rate increases they're asking for, by my
6 calculations, 35 percent of this increase is tied to the
7 problems at Rockport. In 2012, I opposed that legislation
8 because it was a bad deal. It was a bad deal for us; it
9 was a bad deal for the State of Indiana.

10 Today, I oppose the rate increase for the same
11 reason. It's a bad deal.

12 Thank you.

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(WITNESS MIKE WHITE EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Chester Taylor?

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3 **CHESTER TAYLOR**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
4 Public, having been first duly sworn,
5 testified as follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q Sir, if you could state your name and spell it for the
10 Court Reporter, and then you can address your comments to
11 the Commission.

12 A Chester Taylor, C-h-e-s-t-e-r T-a-y-l-o-r.

13 Q Thank you.

14 A I've heard a lot of talk in this community, and as I
15 look around in the group here, there's a lot of white hairs
16 in here, so they're going to probably understand where I'm
17 coming from.

18 My father told me as I was growing up, son, pay
19 yourself first. He didn't tell me how much ungodly money I
20 would have to have just so I can retire in the good old
21 USA, Muncie, Indiana. It's getting exorbitant.

22 This company, Indiana Michigan, wants a
23 20 percent increase. My wife and I both are retired.
24 We're living on a fixed income. We're looking at
25 one-and-a-half, maybe, if we're lucky 2 percent increase

1 this year. Fortunate, we were thrifty; we economized; we
2 have a little money, but not the kind of money that we're
3 going to need if this continues. 20 percent? That's
4 ridiculous. God doesn't even get that kind of a revenue.

5 I think maybe Indiana Michigan ought to be told
6 the same thing American Water was told last year when they
7 wanted an increase, and the Commission said, hey, you guys
8 don't need an increase; you need to give some of the money
9 back to these people in a rate reduction.

10 Now I get tired of paying for their mistakes, and
11 that's all we're doing. We've got -- now we're paying for
12 the -- for them to replace Rockport down there, clean that
13 mess up down there.

14 You know, when I was working as a salesman, if I
15 was a Coca Cola delivery man or a corporate person and went
16 into a store and said, look, I would like to deliver you my
17 Coca Cola, but I'm going to tell you what, you're going to
18 have to buy me a truck so I can bring it to you. Now why
19 do we have to supply them with working tools so they can
20 get the electricity to us and then charge us 20 percent?

21 Thank you very much.

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(WITNESS CHESTER TAYLOR EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Cody James Williams?

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3 **CODY JAMES WILLIAMS**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
4 Public, having been first duly sworn,
5 testified as follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q If you could state your name and spell it for the
10 Court Reporter, and then you can address your comments to
11 the Commission.

12 A Thank you. My name is Cody Williams. It is spelled
13 C-o-d-y W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s.

14 Q Thank you.

15 A I am a resident of South Bend, Indiana, and as you've
16 heard from some of the residents already from South Bend,
17 it is not doing too well. The poverty rate is
18 unbelievable; the unemployment rate is even higher.

19 I would like to start by applauding all of these
20 great Hoosiers for coming here and speaking their voice
21 today and bringing their concerns. This packed house not
22 only validates our concerns, but the look in their eyes
23 exemplifies the fears that we have over such an increase.
24 This is not small; this is not arbitrary; this is not
25 abstract.

1 This could be life or death for a lot of people,
2 a lot of people, as we've heard, on fixed incomes, people
3 who are unemployed altogether. This is not something that
4 regular people can afford.

5 I'm lucky to be from a working class family that
6 is very cohesive, and even though I've maintained a
7 well-paying full-time job as well as my brother, we all
8 live in the same house, the same family home together,
9 because we know if I move out or if he moves out, I can't
10 afford to live on my own. He can't afford to live on his
11 own. My parents wouldn't be able to afford to live on
12 their own. So we are still in this situation, and we're
13 happy for it because we love each other, and we're a great
14 family, but not everybody is so fortunate. Not everybody
15 has a mother who's a nurse or a brother who's a machinist
16 and makes decent money.

17 Some people are disabled; some people just have
18 no access to the income that we need. The wages -- even
19 for working people, wages have not kept up with the cost of
20 living, and you're asking us Indiana Hoosiers, whose wages
21 have even raised at a lower rate than the rest of the
22 United States, to have an increase -- increase our cost of
23 living 20 percent. Not all the entire cost of living
24 20 percent but just for power, for electricity. This is
25 just uncalled for. It is not up to us to bail out the

1 mistakes of I&M.

2 I plead and I beg and I implore everybody on this
3 Commission to understand the true human impact that this is
4 going to have on so many people. We have a packed house
5 here tonight. Think about all the people who couldn't
6 afford to be here but want their voices to be heard.

7 You know, I shake with concern and I shake with
8 anger, but I know that abrasiveness is not going to get you
9 guys to make a decision in our favor, but I'm going to ask
10 and beg for you to do that anyway.

11 Please vote no on 44967.

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25 **(WITNESS CODY JAMES WILLIAMS EXCUSED)**

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Viola Boyd?

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3 **VIOLA BOYD**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q If you could state your name and spell it for the
10 Court Reporter, and then you can address your comments to
11 the Commission.

12 A Viola, V-i-o-l-a, Boyd, B-o-y-d.

13 I've enjoyed every -- Thank you for giving me
14 this time. I've enjoyed everyone that has spoken, and they
15 spoke on my behalf as well.

16 The only thing that I have to add to this
17 increase, when I added everything up on a yearly basis for
18 the kilowatts hours from 125,088 to 151,016 on a yearly
19 basis, we're looking at \$303.36, and on the increase of the
20 \$18 for the residential, it's an increase on monthly by
21 \$10.70, and so to you, it might not mean much.

22 I'm 71, and I'm also retired, and the plant
23 closed. Otherwise, I wanted to work until I was 73, but
24 the plant closed, and it's been closed ever since I was 62,
25 and I'm here to tell you that a lot of things around here

1 have truly changed, and financially -- I'm speaking for the
2 raises that we have received -- what I found out when I
3 became a senior citizen -- goes to Medicare. It does not
4 go to us, and the increase they're talking about, we don't
5 see it, so we don't feel it. You know what I'm saying? We
6 don't feel it. So, meanwhile, everything else is going --
7 even the deductible for -- I have Supplement B. It goes
8 up, and then not only that, then the Supplement D goes up
9 and Supplement B, we call it G for me, but I'm trying to
10 tell you that everything is going up that we have to have.

11 You know, I have to have my health; otherwise,
12 I'm no good. I've got to have it, and it costs money to be
13 healthy and just to go to the doctor just for what they
14 call preventative maintenance. So they say, well, you're
15 rich because you don't have to go to the hospital, and, you
16 know, yeah, but my deductible was \$400 for my Humana
17 prescription drug, and the drugs that I take, I do not get
18 to appreciate my deductible until December, and then it's
19 gone; I got to start all over again for January, see? And
20 so I'm saying -- so -- and now that's gone up.

21 And now this here is ridiculous. I have seen a
22 lot of things happen in my life here in Muncie, Indiana the
23 way they come stripping you, stripping you. We've had
24 difficulties with them taking money away from -- just
25 misappropriating. This in the school. Everything else,

1 the buses, everything is happening. I've never seen such a
2 thing, and now the lights. I just wished that I could
3 speak for everyone in Muncie and we just get together with
4 a drive and only pay what we paid last year when it got
5 cold. That's all. So you just turn all of our lights off.
6 You know what I'm saying? Would you do that? Would you
7 turn all of our lights off if we all agreed that we just
8 going to pay what we just paid last year when it got cold
9 like this because even holding it down to 70, it was too
10 cold. I had to turn it up to 72. I had to just during the
11 day, and my body changed during the night while I was
12 sleeping and had to kick the covers off and turn it back
13 down to 70.

14 But I'm just trying to tell you that with it
15 being low like that, it -- like Judy said, it was still
16 higher. What was the purpose of turning it down? What's
17 the purpose of walking around like Jimmy Carter with a
18 flannel shirt on and the bib overalls and having it cold,
19 and you still walking around with your gloves on, and you
20 come and you still can't pay it. It doesn't make any
21 sense.

22 And I can understand corporate. I had a brother
23 in corporate. I understand what you all do. You don't
24 think about us; I understand that, but I'm thinking about
25 us, and I know I'm -- I'm trying to speak on behalf of the

1 women that are divorced, widows, and just home by
2 themselves, and that's what I'm trying explain to you that
3 we -- it's not that we don't understand there might be an
4 increase, but come on. Now you even know yourself this is
5 ridiculous, and we know you're only going through the form
6 because that's what you're supposed to do. It's the law.
7 We understand that, but we're asking you to be considerate
8 because the main person you have to answer to when this is
9 all over is God. You don't have to answer to us. You got
10 to go through God, and they've got to deal with that. I
11 certainly wouldn't want to have this carry this burden.
12 I'm just telling you because, sure, He forgives us, but
13 when you keep doing stuff and keep doing stuff, he saying,
14 well, you must like it. So then that's not going down
15 that's maybe, you know -- because we looking at the heart;
16 that's what we looking at. It's your heart we're appealing
17 on. We're not appealing about anything else except your
18 heart.

19 Do the right thing. You're in a position to do
20 the right thing, and let us be able to give an applaud for
21 that, and then when we get to Heaven, we can speak on your
22 behalf.

23 Thank you.

24

25 (WITNESS VIOLA BOYD EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Paul Jones?

2

3 **PAUL JONES**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q State your name and spell it for the Court Reporter,
10 and then you can proceed to make your comments to the
11 Commission.

12 A Paul Jones, P-a-u-l J-o-n-e-s.

13 Thank you for hearing me. Also, yeah, I agree
14 that there's been awesome speakers tonight.

15 I just wanted to say a few things. The first
16 thing was last year, I worked with my community with a Sue
17 Ellspermann project that started a few years back, and they
18 combat brain drain by working with troubled youth or youth
19 that are trying to better their communities, so -- I'm
20 sorry -- I worked with Anderson, and it was ten at-risk
21 youth students that I worked through the planning process
22 with them, and the reason I bring that up is because they
23 were just unsure of how to better their communities, how to
24 actually step in and make a difference essentially. So I
25 spoke with them about how to turn brown fields to green

1 fields, the different green energy projects around Indiana,
2 and I think that a way to combat brain drain is to go
3 against these rate increases because they're going to --
4 they're not going to understand now how these decisions
5 affect us, but when they're ten years down the line and
6 they, you know, can't find a place to live or ten years
7 down the line when they can't get into a certain school or
8 don't know how to affect these decisions, they really
9 just -- I can't even explain it, but like just the fact
10 that they were just -- like just lost almost as far as how
11 to affect these decisions and how to just attend these
12 meetings and give their perspective on green energy or rate
13 increases and cost of living, et cetera, et cetera.

14 I just feel like Indiana is a great place as far
15 as having green spaces and having open spaces and an
16 enormous amount of brown fields that can be generated and
17 turned into green fields -- or, excuse me, turned into
18 bright fields as well as we could become a leader in the
19 country as far as -- Sorry. I wasn't like -- I didn't
20 prepare anything, but I just really feel like if we are
21 leaders in the country as far as coal reserves, then it
22 would just make more sense to further reserve those
23 reserves. Like, why would you continue to burn this coal
24 energy if we have so much other. It would be like if you
25 were rich and then just spent all your money. It just

1 doesn't make sense. If we have that claim, we can be
2 definitely green leaders within the country.

3 Another thing I wanted to touch on was when I
4 called and asked about these certain items on my bill, I
5 was just told that they don't deal with explaining the
6 bill; they just deal with meter discrepancies, which I
7 thought was very inappropriate as far as a company that
8 provides lights for my whole entire community.

9 The third thing I wanted to touch on was -- I'm
10 sorry. Oh, yeah. My bad. The third thing I wanted to
11 touch on was the fact that the 18 and under students that I
12 did have the pleasure of meeting, they are the future, and
13 I think that they have bright ideas, but how can we further
14 these awesome ideas and further this awesome time for
15 Indiana if we are essentially kicking them out also by
16 raising their bills and essentially paving the way for them
17 to leave and go to tropical places or places like Florida
18 or places like Portland, places where they desire to go
19 post-graduation. Me myself, 21st Century Scholars saved my
20 life, so with that, I don't know where I would be without
21 Indiana and the strides that they make towards being
22 leaders of the country.

23 With that, please reject Cause No. 44967 and just
24 set the tone for Indiana and what we can do as leaders in
25 the country because we've already proven ourselves as far

1 as these different initiatives that we already have.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Thank you.

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(WITNESS PAUL JONES EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Laura Arnold?

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3 **LAURA ANN ARNOLD**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
4 Public, having been first duly sworn,
5 testified as follows:

6

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q Please state your name and spell it for the Court
10 Reporter, and then you can address the Commission.

11 A I've got handouts. For any I&M executives, I have
12 some but not in the nice one page per piece of paper.

13 My name is Laura Ann Arnold. That's spelled
14 L-a-u-r-a, Ann, A-n-n, and Arnold, A-r-n-o-l-d, as in
15 Schwarzenegger. I am the President of a group called
16 Indiana Distributed Energy Alliance. I am not a customer
17 of Indiana Michigan; however, I have actually read some of
18 the testimony; it's quite voluminous, anyone who's familiar
19 with the case.

20 Indiana Distributed Energy Alliance is a group of
21 businesses that install and promote renewable energy
22 resources including wind, solar, et cetera, as well as
23 customers who install or want to install renewable energy
24 systems.

25 I'm going to make some rather -- try to make some

1 brief comments -- the slides will hopefully help to do
2 that -- on some topics that really have not been addressed
3 elsewhere. I did want to indicate one thing that I liked
4 in the filing, and that is that I&M is proposing to include
5 a service territory map as a part of the tariff, and I
6 really do like that idea, so I did find at least one thing
7 that I liked in the filing.

8 There are some other things that I won't get into
9 too many details, and I'll go straight to some of the
10 slides concerning one of the issues that's been brought up
11 by a number of other speakers, and that is the increase in
12 the fixed charges. This is a problem not only for people
13 who are low income but people who are proposing to use all
14 kinds of energy efficiency programs and want to save energy
15 as well as people who are trying to deploy renewable
16 energy.

17 In particular, this rate increase and this
18 phenomenon of increasing the residential fixed charges has
19 been identified in two recent articles in pv Magazine, and
20 one of the charts that you have in front of you shows in
21 comparison to what's going on in other parts of the
22 country, and I wish everyone could see these, but it shows
23 the 146 percent increase in residential fixed charges, and
24 there's only one other utility currently in the country in
25 the third quarter of 2017 with a larger percentage, and

1 that happens to be Duke Energy Kentucky. So we are way,
2 way, way out front on the issue of increasing the fixed
3 charges. There are some additional slides that shows that
4 comparison, but perhaps most importantly, I would just
5 point out the slide that actually comes from the testimony
6 of I&M itself, and that shows Matthew Nollenberger which
7 shows the Indiana IOU monthly residential service charges
8 which shows now, understandably, that I&M has the lowest
9 monthly fixed charge of \$7.30 per month for residential
10 customers, and then it goes up from there. However, what
11 they don't state and they don't put on the chart is if I&M
12 is granted their requested increase in the monthly
13 residential service charge, they will go from having the
14 lowest charge of \$7.30 to having the highest charge of \$18.
15 Again, this is one of the graphs in I&M's own prefiled
16 testimony, not my numbers, their analysis. That should say
17 something to you. Yeah, says something to me, too.

18 Now, there are a couple other things that I will
19 try to focus on, one of which is probably not going to be
20 of great interest to most of the people who are here in the
21 audience; however, I feel I must address it, and I also
22 want to correct one thing in my slides in which I discuss
23 the co-generation and small power production tariff because
24 after I did finally make some further investigation, it
25 is -- I did note that the contracts under that tariff will

1 be made for a period not less than one year nor more than
2 five years, so I&M is providing for up to a five-year
3 contract for those rates. That's not nearly long enough to
4 make some of those projects be financially beneficial, but
5 at least it's better than one year, which you cannot
6 finance projects.

7 Now, Kurt Cooper on Page 91 of 122 on the Rider
8 NMS -- that's for the net metering service -- this I do not
9 understand, and I feel it deserves attention. This rider
10 has no proposed changes. Why is that important? Well,
11 because after the effective date of a new state law, Senate
12 Enrolled Act 309, was signed by Governor Holcomb on May 2,
13 2017 and thereafter became Public Law 264, I&M had time to
14 revise its tariff to come in compliance with this new state
15 law. Again, the testimony in this case was prefiled July
16 26, 2017. The effective date of the new law was July 1,
17 2017. To date, I&M has failed to either revise the tariff
18 to be in compliance with the new law that includes things
19 like protecting people who install solar systems and want
20 to install it before the end of the year and get the
21 30-year grandfathering, the deal that they are allowed to
22 have under the existing law. Is there any discussion of
23 that in this filing? No. Why not?

24 To date, I&M has also failed -- It could have
25 done it another way. I understand that. This is very

1 technical for the people -- most of the people in the
2 audience, but bear with me. They could have filed a 30-day
3 filing and made these changes. Okay, so they didn't have
4 enough time from, again, when the Governor signed the law
5 May 2nd, the law took effect July 1st -- again, that's how
6 many days? Two months, 60 days, 60 days, and then they
7 filed their own testimony July 26th. However, they just
8 didn't have time to change the tariff to comply with the
9 new law. Why is that?

10 Now, they did manage to file a 30-day filing to
11 make changes in 30-day filing No. 50079 to modify their
12 green power rider, which was submitted September 12th and
13 approved October 17th. So it's not like they didn't know
14 how to do a 30-day filing, okay, and it's not like they
15 didn't know what was in this new state law. They were at
16 the Statehouse; they wanted to take away your rights to get
17 credit for your renewable energy systems if you were so
18 fortunate to be able to install one, okay? It's not like
19 somebody sprang this on them all of a sudden and they
20 didn't know about it. It's their law, okay? Yeah, some
21 legislators at the Statehouse did introduce this
22 legislation for them, but now not to implement it and to
23 give the protections that the law provides and have it in
24 this filing is unconscionable, and they should fix it.
25 They should make a revised filing, and they should take

1 care of it, and I'm so sorry, but it's very frustrating to
2 me as members of my organization go out and work with
3 customers who are furiously trying to beat the clock to get
4 their systems installed and avail themselves of this
5 30-year grandfathering. They're out installing systems and
6 trying very hard to get people who are willing to make that
7 investment in their own homes.

8 Now, let me also indicate that also hidden in
9 this testimony, it says I&M continues to evaluate customer
10 interest in various implementation methodologies offering
11 community solar, solar gardens, and other solar share type
12 of products. This is from Kurt Cooper, 24. I applaud
13 them; I would love to see them do that. We tried to talk
14 to them about some of these more progressive programs, and
15 you know what? Community solar and solar gardens and these
16 solar share programs, this is what's happening in other
17 parts of the country where people who are renters, people
18 who are in apartments or low income residents that maybe by
19 themselves would not have the ability to utilize these
20 technologies of the future to hedge their energy costs
21 going down the road. So far, I&M has opposed each and
22 every one of these progressive proposals. Yet now they're
23 saying, oh, yeah, we're interested in doing it now. Okay.
24 I'm here; I'm ready; I'm ready for the meeting. I don't
25 know if any of the rest of you are willing to sit down and

1 talk with them about it, but I'd like to have a
2 constructive discussion. I'd love the Commission to help
3 participate in that dialogue because this is happening
4 elsewhere in all of the states surrounding us and
5 throughout the United States.

6 People want these kinds of programs; they want
7 clean energy. They also want not energy systems that the
8 utility owns. They want to build it, own it, and control
9 it themselves through community groups like a community
10 garden for God's sake. That's what people are looking for,
11 empowerment, taking responsibility for their own energy
12 futures. That's what people want; they're not looking for
13 a handout. They want to be empowered to take care of
14 themselves, and that's what we want, too.

15 So I will stop there. I have some other points
16 in my testimony that are kind of dry and boring, but I hope
17 that you get a chance to look at some of them, and perhaps
18 I will supplement with some additional written comments.

19 Thank you.

20 THE COURT: We're going to take a five-minute
21 recess now.

22 Let's go off the record.

23

24 **(WITNESS LAURA ANN ARNOLD EXCUSED)**

25 (HEARING IN RECESS UNTIL 7:45 P.M, SAME DAY)

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Muncie, Indiana
October 30, 2017
7:45 P.M. (EDT)

THE COURT: Let's go back on the record.

Before we get started again, we need to swear in anyone that's going to speak tonight that wasn't sworn in when we started, so if you came in and signed up to speak and you weren't sworn in earlier right around 6:00 P.M. when we did the first round, if you could go ahead and stand now.

(OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

THE COURT: Ms. Hitz-Bradley, whenever you're ready.

MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Thank you, Your Honor.
Cornelius Dollison?

1 **CORNELIUS DOLLISON**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
2 Public, having been first duly sworn,
3 testified as follows:

4
5 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

6 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

7 Q Sir, if you can state your name and spell it for the
8 Court Reporter, and then you can address your comments to
9 the Commission.

10 A Okay, thank you.

11 My name is Cornelius Dollison, C-o-r-n-e-l-i-u-s,
12 last name is Dollison, D-o-l-l-i-s-o-n.

13 Q Go ahead, sir.

14 A As a former I&M employee, I understand the company and
15 its operations, but I'm also past president of a very
16 active neighborhood association here in Muncie, and we live
17 in a food desert; there's no grocery stores nearby. We
18 have a food pantry that we try to put on to feed people in
19 our Whitely residence, and we have a 70 percent-plus
20 poverty rate for our school children, and they live on free
21 and reduced lunch; that's the figure I'm talking about. So
22 we have a struggling community. It has high unemployment
23 and poverty, and I know the poor and the disabled are going
24 to be unfairly targeted with this here rate increase.
25 Please deny the rate increase.

1 We collected over 400 signatures on petitions
2 from our low income churches, and of them, I would like to
3 read just one. I am a single mom of five, ages 12, 11, 10,
4 5, and a one-year old. Two of them have physical problems,
5 and I can barely pay the bill as it stands now. Thank you
6 for hearing us, and so that's the thing that we are dealing
7 with, people struggling to pay their utilities as they are
8 now, and so for that reason, we would appreciate it if you
9 would deny that request for a rate increase.

10 Thank you for your time.

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(WITNESS CORNELIUS DOLLISON EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Julio Munoz?

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3 **JULIO MUNOZ**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

4 having been first duly sworn, testified as

5 follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q If you could state your name and spell it for the
10 Court Reporter, and then you can address your comments to
11 the Commission.

12 A Sure. My name is Julio Munoz, J-u-l-i-o, Munoz,
13 M-u-n-o-z.

14 First of all, I would like to start off and say
15 that I'm not a paid protestor that shows up to all these
16 Commission hearings and says the same thing over and over
17 and over again. I'm actually a resident here in Muncie.

18 I moved from California from Los Angeles from one
19 of the highest rent areas in the country, maybe second to
20 New York, to Muncie so I could actually come down here and
21 settle down, you know, where everybody said Indiana is
22 great, even the posters and t.v. ads that came out on
23 television that said, oh, Indiana is great, you know, come
24 see us, so I moved out here to Indiana because everything
25 was lower, and then all of a sudden, I moved here to

1 Muncie. I flew out just to see the house from Los Angeles,
2 bought my house cash, and everything was just great, you
3 know. Everything is real low priced.

4 All of a sudden, they started kicking us in with
5 a wheel tax, a tire tax, a road tax, registration tax, fuel
6 tax; anything that has to do with a car, they're adding and
7 adding and adding, and when we pay our utility taxes, you
8 know, when we pay our water bill, electric bill,
9 everything, there's always a tax to it, right, so
10 somebody's collecting that money, and that's the state
11 that's collecting that money. The county's collecting that
12 money. The City is collecting that money. Every time we
13 get a paycheck, I pay just for the privilege of working in
14 the State of Indiana. I got to pay Delaware County. I
15 think it's 0.2 percent of my earnings; right? That's just
16 because I live here in the county, but since I work up in
17 Grant County, Grant County feels like they deserve to get a
18 piece of my paycheck, also, which they get 0.04 percent,
19 and they did nothing for me. They didn't provide me with a
20 service. The county here in Delaware County doesn't
21 provide me with a service. I'm actually providing the
22 county with services, and they show nothing -- they have
23 nothing to show for it.

24 My streets are -- I tell you because I'm a
25 veteran. My street has more potholes than what I seen when

1 I was in Iraq and when I was in Afghanistan. There's more
2 potholes out there than there is out there because the
3 Iraqis, the next day -- we bombed them; the next day, they
4 were out there patching those holes. That's all we have
5 here; right?

6 So when I&M requests an increase, right, that
7 means that somebody's getting paid, so they're going to
8 increase it to \$20 per month. The state gets an added tax
9 to that; right? The county gets an added tax to that, and
10 the City gets money off of that. So everybody gets their
11 piece; everybody gets a piece of that little pie there, but
12 who ends up paying for it? We do. We're still going to
13 get the same crappy service that we get; right? I called
14 the electric company and tell them, hey, I'm having a
15 problem with -- call somebody else. You know, go call the
16 City. Oh, you live in the City? Yes, I do. Call the
17 City; don't call us. We're not getting anything more,
18 we're not getting -- but nothing more, nothing less. We're
19 getting the same exact service; right?

20 So with you guys with having these hearings, I'm
21 sorry to say, all right, because I'm going to be outspoken.
22 I was a commissioner also in the City of South Gate. When
23 the corruption hit in South Gate, that's when we moved in,
24 and we took out all of the politicians, and we replaced
25 them. I was a police commissioner in South Gate,

1 California. So I know how all of this stuff works. This
2 is all just a pony show. This is all a pony show to show
3 everybody here -- everybody out here and say we're working;
4 your tax dollars are paying us to be here, but you guys are
5 getting paid mileage and everything else. You guys are all
6 getting paid, so you guys are all getting a part of that
7 piece of that pie; we're not. We're paying you guys to be
8 out here; right?

9 So what do we get in return? We already know
10 that most of these commissions have already set up their
11 minds; they've already decided we're going to give I&M this
12 increase that they're asking; right? We're living -- sorry
13 to say, we're living in a Trump era, okay, so EPA rules are
14 out the window, so what is the problem with the coal?
15 Bring the coal back; right? Trump said it's good. You
16 know, this climate change. It's a hoax. He said it. Our
17 President said it. So why do you guys want more money?
18 Start burning the coal. There is no such thing as clean
19 coal. There is no such thing. Coal is coal, and it's
20 going to kill you, and it's going to kill the people that
21 are mining that coal, but if the President says it's not
22 true, then, hey, you know, why not? Let's go up there to
23 Gary, let's go up there to Chicago, let's go up there to
24 Detroit, you know, and let's go see their water, and it's
25 not true; right? We're good; right?

1 But to be honest with you guys, this is a pony
2 show. We all know that I&M is going to get that rate
3 increase whether we like it or not. It's plain and simple.
4 This is just a thing to make people feel comfortable, and
5 say, look, we're here for you. If you guys are actually
6 here for us, you guys will deny the rate increase that they
7 are requesting. They're not showing anything for it. I'm
8 not giving you anything more.

9 I got a heart attack three years ago, and I don't
10 see -- When I got the heart attack, my pills cost me \$450 a
11 month; that's once the insurance kicks in. Once my
12 prescription coverage kicks in, I'm still paying \$450 a
13 month for 30 pills to keep me alive. When I got the heart
14 attack and I was off work for six months, I had to borrow
15 money from my neighbor just to cover that cost for that
16 medication, okay? I called I&M and said, look, I had a
17 heart attack; I'm off work. The only thing they told me
18 was I'm sorry, but your bill is due on this certain date.
19 Nothing; right? I didn't get no get well card from I&M and
20 say, you know, we feel for you, man, but pay your bill.
21 Nothing; right?

22 So do they deserve it? No. I think for the
23 money that we're paying, they're going to send you out a
24 little small box like this in the mail, and it comes with
25 four different fluorescent -- or, what is that, the FCL

1 [verbatim] lightbulbs; right? My house is 100 percent LED.
2 Everything that I have in my house is LED just to save
3 money. I've spent through the nose buying those
4 lightbulbs, all LED. So, basically, the money that I saved
5 I'm going to give it right back to them, so what was the
6 point? What's the point of you guys promoting clean energy
7 and go with LEDs, but in the end, we're still going to get
8 you; we're going to get that money back. Your savings is
9 going to come back to us tenfold. It's not fair. It's not
10 fair to anybody.

11 You know, when I go to work and tell the boss,
12 hey, you know what, I want a raise, the boss says, yeah,
13 well, go down the street and see if they'll give you a
14 raise over there because you're not going to get it here.
15 I got to deal with it; I got to deal with it just like
16 anybody else here.

17 You know, but if you guys are honestly here for
18 the community and for the citizens of Indiana and Delaware
19 County, I would like to see you guys -- I would like to
20 challenge you guys as a former commissioner myself, you
21 guys vote no on this increase and show -- start winning the
22 people back. Win the people back. Start showing us and
23 say, hey, look, we're here for you guys, because I know
24 none of you guys live in here in Muncie; none of you guys
25 live in Delaware County. Maybe one, two, but out of

1 everybody else, nobody else lives here, and you're not
2 going to go through the struggles that we go through here
3 in the county. You know, show us that you guys are here
4 for the citizens and not for the monopoly.

5 Thank you.

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(WITNESS JULIO MUNOZ EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Joanne Jones?

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3 **JOANNE JONES**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q State your name and --

10 A Hi. I'm Joanne Jones, J-o-a-n-n-e, last name Jones,
11 J-o-n-e-s.

12 I am here to speak to you about the Cause No.
13 44967, and let me start by this: Everybody has said
14 they're disabled, they're poverty ridden, everything else.
15 Nobody has given you numbers. I have a fixed income of
16 \$780 a month. I lived at a tower place of HUD housing for
17 15 years and was forced out because of bed bugs,
18 cockroaches, rats. It was horrible.

19 I earned my way out of there. I pay \$500 a month
20 rent. I pay my own gas, my own lights, my water, and my
21 sewage. I have my own food costs; I have a car that I have
22 to drive because the transport only takes you to and from a
23 doctor. Nobody takes you to get your prescriptions; nobody
24 takes you to get tests done; you have to do it all on your
25 own.

1 So you all talk about this -- I hope to God this
2 is not a pony show. You're all up there in your little
3 suits; you're all in your little high houses. Come down
4 and live on \$780. I challenge you to come and live on
5 \$1,500 a month, not just \$780 a month. I pay right now on
6 my electric bill \$35.14 before I even turn on a light.

7 I live by myself. I have a dog, but she doesn't
8 even need lights; she doesn't care about lights or
9 anything, but if you do this increase, I'm going to be
10 paying over \$60 a month just in fees before I even turn on
11 a light. You're going to force me back into a housing
12 that's full of cockroaches, that's full of bed bugs, and
13 that's full of rats because I won't be able to afford to
14 stay in my home, and that's not fair. That's not -- You
15 all have your homes; you all live in your highrises. Give
16 us the same chance that you all have.

17 Please, please turn this down. The water company
18 didn't get us, and, by golly, the electric company
19 shouldn't get us.

20 We didn't ask for that coal plant. That coal
21 plant needs to go, completely needs to go. Why should we
22 pay for the -- We're already paying for the Muncie
23 community schools' mistakes. Now you want us to pay for
24 other people's mistakes. When is it going to stop? And
25 you do hit the elderly; you hit the elderly, and you hit

1 the middle class, and we're tired of getting suckered into
2 paying for -- I paid my dues, and why do I have to keep
3 paying my dues because of somebody else's mistakes?

4 Thank you.

5 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Thank you, ma'am.

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(WITNESS JOANNE JONES EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: J. Andrew Slack?

2 Last name Yance?

3 Timothy Berg?

4 Phil Boltz?

5 Jeff White?

6 David LeBlanc?

7

8 **DAVID LeBLANC**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,

9 having been first duly sworn, testified as

10 follows:

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12 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

13 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

14 Q Sir, please state your name and spell it for the Court
15 Reporter, and then you can address your comments to the
16 Commission.

17 A David LeBlanc, D-a-v-i-d, LeBlanc, L-e-B-l-a-n-c.

18 Q Thank you.

19 A First, I want to thank you for your patience sitting
20 here through these long hours of people basically baring
21 their souls to you. I'm going to read from my remarks so
22 that I can do this expeditiously.

23 We have a history with monopolies in our country.
24 Given free reign, they have always been self-serving and
25 greedy. They thrive when we have no choice but to buy

1 their product, charging what they like regardless of the
2 human suffering caused by their pursuit of wealth. They
3 facilitate the selfish desire of their directors to avoid
4 responsibility for poor decisions by passing the costs on
5 to the customer.

6 The current proposal to substantially increase
7 the fixed charge imposed on all customers is just the most
8 recent example of a monopoly trying to rob the public,
9 especially the poor, of their ability to control how much
10 they have to pay for electricity. Even if they sit in a
11 cold, dark house, the bill is still too high.

12 In the modern era, we have regulated monopolies.
13 Bodies like yours are the only defense we have against the
14 natural inclination of every monopoly. You are charged to
15 protect small business owners, the poor, those on fixed
16 incomes, the small folk we call the public.

17 It's easy for the public to be an abstract
18 concept. I ask you to remember the faces in this room
19 tonight and recognize that these are but a small sample of
20 the public, those who could get off work, those who had the
21 energy after a long day to come to City Hall for this
22 meeting, those who have hope that their voice could stand
23 against the will of a powerful company. These are the
24 people you are charged to protect from the depredations of
25 a monopoly and its directors who are responsible only to

1 their shareholders. I have a retirement mutual fund, so I
2 am likely one of those shareholders. I'm here to tell you
3 I don't need the money that I&M proposes to take from many
4 Hoosiers who are less fortunate than I so they can increase
5 profits and dividends.

6 Your job is difficult; you must distinguish
7 justifiable need from simple greed and desire to cover up
8 past mistakes. I ask that you remember what you've heard
9 today and in the other public forums and that you do your
10 best to protect the interests of the people of Indiana.

11 Please deny I&M's proposed increase in the fixed
12 charge.

13 Thank you very much.

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(WITNESS DAVID LeBLANC EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Tenisha Harris?

2 Edward McNeary?

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4 **EDWARD McNEARY**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
5 Public, having been first duly sworn,
6 testified as follows:

7

8 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

9 **QUESTIONS BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

10 Q Sir, if you would state your name and spell it for the
11 Court Reporter, and then you can address your comments to
12 the Commission.

13 A Yeah, Edward McNeary, and that's spelled E-d-w-a-r-d
14 M-c-N-e-a-r-y.

15 Q Thank you. Go ahead, sir.

16 A I'm just here tonight -- I don't know how many of you
17 know the number of senior citizens that we have here in the
18 City in Delaware County. I happened to be behind a senior
19 citizen at the drug store, and they was trying to buy some
20 medication, and through that conversation with the
21 pharmacist, he said, you know, I really don't have all of
22 the money for my medication because I'm trying to stay at
23 home and pay my light bill because the violence that we
24 have in our community, I would like for my lights to stay
25 on all night long, and as I heard that statement, it almost

1 brought tears to my eyes.

2 So I would just like to maybe ask you when you
3 maybe go back to the Statehouse is to tell this company
4 that they should eliminate some of the lobbyists that they
5 have working on this sort of thing.

6 You know, and I'm going to wrap this up, I have
7 just finished reading a book, and it said at the end that
8 the system was created for the few and by the few.

9 Thank you.

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(WITNESS EDWARD McNEARY EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Nora Powell?

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3 **NORA POWELL**, a witness appearing on behalf of the Public,
4 having been first duly sworn, testified as
5 follows:

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7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION,**

8 **QUESTION BY MS. HITZ-BRADLEY:**

9 Q If you could state your name and spell it for the
10 Court Reporter, and then you can address your comments to
11 the Commission.

12 A Yes, ma'am. Nora Powell, N-o-r-a P-o-w-e-l-l.

13 I have the honor of serving on the Muncie City
14 Council as well. Forgive my dress; I jumped right off the
15 treadmill and came over.

16 So I wanted to thank you first for hosting this
17 tonight and giving people the opportunity to speak their
18 mind.

19 I also wanted to echo the sentiments of those who
20 have come before me here tonight. There's no doubt that
21 this proposed rate hike will certainly mean more difficult
22 choices for people within our community. Food versus
23 lights, medicine versus heat, things along those lines.

24 It will also negatively impact -- affect our
25 residents' abilities to participate in activities which

1 increase their quality of life, so people who may not have
2 that difficult choice between medicine and lights may have
3 to choose whether or not they can take their wife out to
4 dinner, and so those choices unfortunately negatively
5 affect our local business owners and the people who own the
6 shops that sell the flowers and the people who sell all of
7 the other things that make our community move.

8 We have one of the highest poverty rates in the
9 State. We struggle economically as a community. The
10 residents of Muncie cannot shoulder this financial burden.
11 This will hurt our community in so many ways, so I oppose
12 this rate hike as not only a customer but also as a
13 representative of those within our community, and I ask
14 that you vote no on 44967.

15 Thank you.

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(WITNESS NORA POWELL EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Alice Wilson?

2 Is there anyone else who wishes to speak this
3 evening who has not already spoken?

4 THE COURT: Could you raise your right hand?

5

6 (OATH DULY ADMINISTERED TO ONE PERSON)

7

8 **MARILYN WALKER**, a witness appearing on behalf of the
9 Public, having been first duly sworn,
10 testified as follows:

11

12 A I'm Marilyn Walker, M-a-r-i-l-y-n W-a-l-k-e-r.

13 I am also -- It's hard, and I'm not going to cry
14 either. You set here and you listened tonight, and I want
15 to say thank you very much because it's got to be very
16 patient for you guys to set up there and listen to everyone
17 tonight, and I appreciate that, but I am the Center
18 Township Trustee, so I cover the whole Center Township for
19 the City of Muncie.

20 I see people every day, day in and day out, that
21 are in need, and when everyone talks about everyone coming
22 up, like Miss Joanne come up and spoke about herself, when
23 people are on a set income or they have no income or
24 they're waiting for their social security or they're
25 waiting for their disability, all they can do at the time

1 is look through a microscope. It's just -- it's like
2 looking through a microscope and figuring out they can only
3 fix one thing at a time, so what do I have in front of me
4 today that I've got to take care of, whether it be a light
5 bill, whether it be food for my children, whether it be
6 medicine. We have seen this day in and day out.

7 Our services are going up as well with property
8 tax caps and everything that's going on, you know, budgets
9 being cut and so forth. We're seeing working people
10 working two minimum wage jobs that can't get by; they can't
11 provide for their self. We see those individuals that are
12 making the choices whether to get that medicine or pay that
13 light bill or to get groceries.

14 I'm sure I could go on and on and on. It's just
15 what everybody said tonight. I wasn't going to get up and
16 speak, but it just -- it pours on my heart because I see
17 these people day in and day out, and you guys, I pay you
18 guys a lot of money -- I don't, but the Center Township
19 Trustee's office does for our utility bills, and so I'm up
20 here opposed for 44967. I'd appreciate it if you would
21 really give it a hard thought with your heart which I'm
22 sure that you will, and I thank you very much for being so
23 kind and patient with all of us this evening.

24 Thank you.

25 (WITNESS MARILYN WALKER EXCUSED)

1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Your Honor, if I can have a
2 moment to draw up the documents together.

3 The written comments that were received this
4 evening will be submitted as part of what's called a Field
5 Hearing exhibit and the petitions as well, and they will be
6 marked as field hearing -- Muncie Field Hearing Exhibit No.
7 1, and, Your Honor, I'm requesting that those be entered
8 into evidence at this time.

9 THE COURT: The record will show that Muncie FH-1
10 is admitted into the record.

11

12 (PUBLIC'S EXHIBIT NO. MUNCIE FH-1, BEING
13 THE PUBLIC FIELD HEARING QUESTIONNAIRES AND
14 PETITIONS, ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)

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1 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: It appears there are no other
2 people wishing to speak this evening.

3 THE COURT: Ms. Hitz-Bradley, when is the
4 deadline for the public to submit -- if they wish to submit
5 any additional comments to the OUCC?

6 MS. HITZ-BRADLEY: Any additional comments should
7 be received by close of business this Thursday, which is
8 the 2nd of November, and if you check the table outside,
9 there are documents showing our web address, our email.
10 We'll take FAXes, but we do need to get those documents by
11 that time so that we can compile them for testimonial
12 submission next week.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 This matter is continued to an evidentiary
15 hearing to begin on January 16, 2018 at 9:30 A.M. in Room
16 222 of the PNC Center in Indianapolis, Indiana.

17 Let's go off the record.

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21 (FIELD HEARING ADJOURNED)

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23 (AND CONTINUED TO JANUARY 16, 2018 AT

24 9:30 A.M. (EST) IN ROOM 222 OF THE PNC CENTER,

25 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA)

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