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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

11-29-09

Dear Public Utilities Comm. -

I've been a customer of yours for a long time. I'm a divorced mother of two children and do the best I can, working two jobs, to make ends meet.

The past five years I've lived in a house owned by Pennington County Housing. Until recently, they paid a large portion of our utilities as part of our rent.

They gave us less than thirty-day notice that they were no longer paying our utilities and promptly left us all with past due balances.

I have tried my best to get everyone caught up and then BHP&L decided since I was always behind on my bill that I was a credit risk. So, they tack on an additional deposit every month.

Which part of this is fair? If I don't pay my light bill, I will get kicked out of housing anyway, so they have to know I will pay it even if it means I can't buy groceries. It's not a fair choice to make, is it? Why do you charge people who don't have enough money in the first place, more money? It does not make sense and it's discriminatory. I'm not a minority and it's still a racist thing to do; just because I'm poor. Something needs to be changed. How are you helping people in our economic crisis? What are you doing to help us survive?
→

Think about that as you go home tonight.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hooley

Rapid City, SD 57701

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P.S. I don't have a computer with
spell check, I'm just a regular,
hard working American citizen caught
in the middle of financial chaos.