

**From:** Christine [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2025 4:34 PM  
**To:** PUC-PUC <[PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Strong Opposition to Docket No. EL25-024 – Xcel Energy’s Proposed 20% Rate Increase

Dear Members of the Public Utilities Commission,

I am writing as a deeply concerned citizen and customer of Xcel Energy regarding docket number EL25-024, the proposed electric rate increase filed on June 30, 2025. I strongly urge you to deny this request. A 20% increase in electricity rates is not just a number on a piece of paper—it is a devastating blow to thousands of families, including my own, who are already struggling to stay afloat.

Electricity is not a luxury. It is a basic, non-negotiable necessity. We rely on it to heat and cool our homes, cook food, keep medications safe, and power essential medical devices. Increases of this magnitude do not just strain budgets—they break them. For many working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and those living paycheck to paycheck, this rate hike will push them from barely managing to outright crisis.

In today’s world, where inflation has already driven up the cost of nearly everything—from groceries to gas to housing—this kind of sudden, substantial increase feels not only unfair but unconscionable. It effectively punishes the public for a service we have no choice but to use. People cannot simply opt out of electricity. There is no competitive alternative. This makes the need for responsible, compassionate regulation all the more vital.

Xcel Energy is a powerful corporation with resources and influence. The people are not. That is why we are asking you, the Commission, to stand with the public. Your role exists to protect consumers from exactly this kind of harm. I implore you to weigh the real human cost of this decision. The impact is not abstract—it will be felt in darkened homes, in missed meals, in parents choosing between paying the light bill and buying school supplies.

Please do not allow this increase to move forward. The people of our state cannot bear this burden.

Thank you for your time, for your service, and for considering the voices of the people you represent.

With deep sincerity,

Christine VandeHoef

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