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From: Gene McNabb [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 5:42 PM

To: Nelson, Chris [REDACTED]; Fiegen, Kristie [REDACTED];

Hanson, Gary (PUC) [REDACTED]

Subject: [EXT] Black Hills Energy

I am writing in response to Black Hills Energy's request to increase our electric rates by 25%.

First of all, I think the figure of 25% is insulting given the state of our economy, the scarcity of good paying jobs and the rising costs of everything around us.

In addition, it is extremely inconsiderate that a company with a monopoly and an annual revenue of \$2.31 Billion would have the gaul to impose their expenses on their customers while providing considerable economic comfort to their shareholders.

I am hopeful that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission understands that Black Hills Energy customers should not be held responsible for paying for their improvements. I do not agree with their statements on improved reliability or their policy on cutting electricity to mitigate wildfire risk. They should be spending some money on power line maintenance and tree trimming.

I also hope the commission agrees with me that just because they have not requested a rate increase in 10 years does not mean they are entitled to one now. They find ways to nickel and dime their customers through other billing strategies.

I thank you for taking the time to read my concerns!

Sincerely,

Gene McNabb

[REDACTED]