

**From:** John Hoag [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 11:10 AM  
**To:** PUC-PUC <[PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXT] EL26-003

**To Whom It May Concern,**

I am writing in regard to EL26-003. While I understand that energy costs will inevitably rise, I believe that a 25% rate increase—totaling over \$50 million—imposed by Black Hills Energy on South Dakota customers is excessive. Approximately 75,000 customers in South Dakota have no alternative but to use Black Hills Energy for electricity, meaning we have no choice but to accept these rate hikes.

When Black Hills Energy proposed a \$17-\$25 million rate increase for Colorado in 2024 (after settlements), this was for around 100,000 customers—one and a third times the number of customers in South Dakota, yet the increase was roughly half the amount.

In short, EL26-003 would result in 75,000 South Dakota customers effectively paying double the rate increase per capita compared to 100,000+ customers in Colorado.

I urge you to consider making rate increases more consistent across states and ensure that South Dakota customers are not disproportionately impacted.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John Hoag  
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Summerset, SD 57718  
[REDACTED]