From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2026 4:13 PM
To: Nelson, Chris [redacted]; Fiegen, Kristie [redacted] Hanson, Gary (PUC) [redacted]; Mohr, Leah [redacted]
Subject: [EXT] Request for Rigorous Review of MidAmerican Energy's Proposed 8.2% Rate Increase
Importance: High

Dear Commissioners and Director,

You are no doubt aware of the 8.2% rate increase requested by MidAmerican Energy. As one of their customers, I recently received the company's "sell sheet" justifying the proposed increase. It cited the following reasons:

- Investment in the natural gas system to better serve customers;
- Recovery of expenses incurred from flooding at McCook Lake and damage to gas facilities;
- Serving new natural gas customers and upgrading or repairing older gas mains and lines;
- Replacing aging technology to support service operations; and
- Adapting to higher labor and material costs.

While these may be legitimate expenses, the justification says nothing about how much of the requested increase would contribute to profits, executive compensation, or bonuses. I have no objection to a reasonable return for investors or to rewarding executives with commensurate compensation. I do, however, object to the size of this proposed increase, particularly when the evidence used to support it deserves careful scrutiny.

My wife and I are a two-person household living on a fixed income. Our Social Security cost-of-living adjustment in 2025 was 2.5%, amounting to less than $50 per month. At the same time, our Medicare Part B premiums increased by approximately 6%, or nearly $250 annually for the two of us.

MidAmerican's claim that the proposed increase would amount to approximately $3.83 per month for a typical residential customer also deserves perspective. We maintain a relatively consistent temperature in our home throughout the day, making only minor seasonal adjustments. Our average monthly natural gas bill is approximately $63, or $756 annually. An 8.2% increase would add approximately $62 to our annual bill—effectively requiring us to pay for an additional month of our current gas expenses over the course of a year.

As of the end of August 2026, the U.S. inflation rate was reported at 3.4%. Even that figure does not fully reflect the financial pressure consumers experience from rising food, fuel, and housing costs. When a utility requests an increase more than twice the rate of inflation, its justification should be especially thorough and transparent.

I respectfully urge you to **aggressively review every aspect of MidAmerican Energy's request before granting approval**. That review should include a detailed examination of the company's projected costs, the necessity and timing of proposed investments, the allocation of expenses between customers and shareholders, and the compensation and profitability assumptions underlying the request.

If ordinary households are expected to tighten their belts and live within their means despite market turbulence and fixed incomes, MidAmerican Energy should be held to a comparable standard of fiscal responsibility.

Wouldn't a rate increase tied more closely to inflation be easier to justify and approve? A request in the range of **3%**, rather than 8.2%, seems more reasonable and deserving of consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I hope you will carefully consider the impact this proposed increase would have on customers, particularly those living on fixed incomes.

Respectfully,

John A Durajczyk
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Sioux Falls, SD 57110
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