

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PUC CONSUMER PUC * PUC](#)
Subject: Cascade Natural Gas Rate Increase
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 6:13:40 PM

I just received a notice in my bill that CNGC is requesting a rate increase due to the Temporary COVID-19 Residential Bill Assistance Program.

I am on a fixed income (retired). I have had to maneuver through the huge increases in ALL areas of my budget since COVID began. Every aspect of my budget has increased. Electric, gas, gasoline, insurance, food, meds, taxes - everything. This has been a real challenge for all of us. With every increase I am forced to find that money in my budget. I don't get a raise every time one of these expenses goes up.

Why would CNGC be granted an increase because of COVID? Just to pass this along to the consumer, who is already drowning in price increases? I believe CNGC should tighten their belt just like we are expected to do.

I volunteer at our local food bank and our local hygiene bank (we supply hygiene products that you can't get with food stamps). We have had such a huge increase in people coming in for assistance. Families that never needed to come in before are asking for help. Most of these families are struggling to make ends meet with the increases in food, gas to get to work, along with all the other things I listed previously. And now CNGC wants more money from them. This is creating an unbelievable hardship on the retirees and working families. We can't go to our "source of revenue" and ask for an increase because of the stress placed on our household budgets that was created by COVID. Some are forgoing necessary meds, food, power etc to just get by.

I am urging the Oregon PUC to take a long hard look at yet another rate increase for which so many of us will be carrying the burden. (Between electric and gas, my power costs almost doubled this winter). Yes there are solar programs etc, but as a senior I can't afford to install some of these. Many of the local seniors are looking at increased property taxes and energy costs which could drive some out of their homes that they have lived in and maintained for years. We get no break in these increased costs.

Please reconsider this application and how it will affect so many of the Oregon citizens.

Thank you.

J [REDACTED]
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