Rick & Ana Brown

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Date:

6/27/2025

To:

Public Service Commission

Subject:

Proposed TECO Rate Increase Effective January 1, 2026

I am a RS-2 user of TECO natural gas. If I am reading the notice I received in this month's statement correctly, my Base Rate will increase from \$0.35165 to \$0.46319, which represents an increase of 32%. For some reason, the Customer Charge element of the notice goes from \$24.41 to \$35.50 for a whopping increase of 45%. The US inflation rate in 2024 was at 2.9% and the rate for 2025 YTD is 3.1%.

Frankly, I am tired of being taken advantage of across all economic fronts, whether it be food, utilities, products or services. When we were hit in years past with higher prices, it was my hope that we would return to some degree of normalcy in time, which has not happened.

I am a 76-year-old retiree on a fixed income and trying to keep up with the rising costs has become and increasingly difficult proposition, which I never envisioned when I planned for my retirement. Costs in recent years have far exceeded any planning that was done, and the result for folks like my wife and I have become burdensome.

TECO sites expanding networks, adding miles of service lines, addition of new customers, conservation projects, etc. as costs affecting the need for this increase. But at a rate of somewhere between 25%-45%, the request seems inappropriate to be borne by current, existing customers.

I felt a need to voice my frustration with this action and appeal to the PSC to be prudent in its review of this request. I appreciate your support in this matter.

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Attachment

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COMMISSION

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PSC Office of Commission Clark 2450 Shumand Oak Blind. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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How the Proposed Changes in Rates and Charges May Impact Your Bill

The following tables show how the proposed rates and service charges compare with what you pay today.

Rate Class	Current Annual Therm Usage	Current M Customer Charge	onthly Rates Base Rate	Proposed Annual Therm Usage	Proposed M Customer Charge	onthly Rates Base Rate
RS-1	0 - 99	\$ 19.10	\$ 0.35165	0 - 99*	\$ 26.50	\$ 0.46319
RS-2	100 - 249	\$ 24.41	\$ 0.35165	0 - 1,999*	\$35.50	\$ 0.46319
RS-3	250 - 1,999	\$ 31.54	\$ 0.35165	0 - 1,999*	\$ 35.50	\$ 0.46319 よいしかーろ \$ 0.46319
RS-GHP	N/A	\$ 31.54	\$ 0.12395	N/A	\$ 56.00	\$ 0.12617
RSG (Residential Standby Generator)	N/A	\$ 31.54	\$ 0.28237	N/A	\$ 41.00	\$ 0.58931

^{*}The company is proposing to close the RS-1 rate class to new customers, and to combine rate classes RS-2 and RS-3 into one rate class for usage up to 1,999 therms.

Miscellaneous Service Charges	Current	Proposed	
Residential Meter Turn On	\$ 78.00 \$ 34.00 per additional meter	\$ 94.00 \$ 36.00 per additional meter	
Residential Meter Reconnect	\$ 104.00 \$ 33.00 per additional meter	\$ 100.00 \$ 33.00 per additional meter	
Account Opening	\$ 33.00	\$ 31.00	
Temporary Turn-off Charge	\$ 33.00 per meter	\$ 33.00 per meter	
Failed Trip Charge	\$ 25.00	\$ 31.00	
Trip Charge/Premise Collection	\$ 29.00	\$ 25.00	

If approved, the proposed rates and service charges would be effective in January 2026.

The rates do not reflect the Purchased Gas Adjustment, which is passed through from gas and major pipeline suppliers and can fluctuate monthly based on the price of natural gas.

Rate schedules are subject to gross receipts taxes, city and state taxes and franchise fees, where applicable.

Base rates are part of the Customer Charge and Distribution Charge line items on your bill. The Distribution Charge is a grouping of several costs, including your base rate, a charge for energy conservation programs, legacy pipeline replacement and other costs.

