

Senator J.D. Ford  
200 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 232-9847  
[s29@iga.in.gov](mailto:s29@iga.in.gov)

Committees:  
Commerce and Technology, RMM  
Insurance  
Elections, RMM  
Family and Children Services, RMM  
Pensions and Labor  
Tax and Fiscal Policy  
Utilities, RMM

May 18, 2020

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 W. Washington St, Ste. #1500-E  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

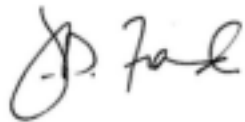
IURC Commissioners,

It was brought to my attention that the IURC is now in receipt of a joint petition (Cause No. 45377) on behalf of several Indiana utilities that would result in, among other items, a possible increase to consumer utility rates. I am writing now to urge the Commission with the utmost sincerity not to entertain such a measure—especially in this unprecedented time of widespread health and economic uncertainty.

Following the implementation of the Governor's stay-at-home order, my office has been flooded with contacts from constituents requesting assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these contacts are folks desperately seeking assistance with accessing state unemployment benefits or requesting financial resources to help them weather the storm.

Please know that I do appreciate the concerns raised by utilities in the joint petition. However, my focus at this time must be on Hoosiers across the state struggling to pay existing rates. I applaud our utilities for efforts taken thus far to alleviate the burden Hoosiers are facing, but I cannot support any action that will result in higher rates for Hoosiers during the ongoing pandemic.

Sincerely,



J.D. Ford  
Indiana State Senator  
District 29