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Committees:
Health & Provider Services, RMM
Insurance and Financial Institutions, RMM
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Rules & Legislative Procedure

May 26, 2020

Chairman Jim Huston
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Chairman Huston,

It has come to my attention that a number of utility companies have submitted a joint petition to the IURC that could result in increased consumer utility rates. Because of the unprecedented circumstances imposed by this pandemic, I strongly urge the IURC to hold statewide public hearings on proposed rate increases.

I understand that the current hardships have had a negative impact on utility companies, but they are certainly not alone. COVID-19 has financially affected, and in some cases devastated, millions of households and businesses across the state. The Department of Workforce Development has received a record number of claims, many from my constituents, still struggling to meet their financial obligations while awaiting receipt of their benefits. The ramifications of this rate increase proposal will have a severe impact on those who are already struggling.

In recent days, I have received a large number of correspondence from constituents in opposition to this proposal. The IURC must take this feedback from the community into consideration. Families most at risk of being negatively impacted by the proposal put forth by the public utilities must be given an opportunity to give testimony on the impact of the proposed rate increases.

I urge you to consider this request and I ask you to give it every consideration that my constituents and every Hoosier rate payer deserves.

I look forward to your prompt response to this request.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean D. Breaux
Assistant Minority Leader

Indiana Senate District 34

CC: Rep. Robin Shackleford, Chair-Indiana Black Legislative Caucus
Rep. Cherish Pryor, Democratic Floor Leader-Indiana House of Representatives
William Fine, Indiana Utility Consumer Counselor