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Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 11:40 AM
To: PUC - Clerk <PUC.Clerk@vermont.gov>
Subject: Public comment - proposed rate increase

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To the Vermont Public Utility Commission,

I write today regarding the proposed rate increase for Green Mountain Power. I do so with deep frustration and growing concern that the voices of Vermont ratepayers are being heard—but not meaningfully considered.

Vermonters have been urged—by state policy, by the Public Utility Commission, and by utilities—to transition away from fossil fuels and invest in electric and renewable technologies. We were told this transition would lower emissions, strengthen our communities, and create a more sustainable and affordable future. Many of us acted in good faith. We installed heat pumps, supported solar development, and converted our homes to electric systems in alignment with the state’s renewable energy goals.

Now, those same Vermonters are facing repeated and significant rate increases.

The result is not a smoother transition to clean energy—it is financial strain. Households that answered the call to electrify are now locked into rising electric costs with no alternative. When electricity becomes the primary source of heat and power, rate increases are no longer marginal—they are existential. Families cannot simply switch back. They are captive to a system that continues to raise prices.

This undermines public trust in Vermont’s renewable energy strategy. If electrification is the path forward, it must also be affordable and predictable. Otherwise, the policy functions less as climate leadership and more as a revenue guarantee for a monopoly utility.

I am retired and living on a fixed income. I now keep my home at 67 degrees in winter to manage costs—something I never had to do before. Even with deliberate conservation, my bill remains unreasonably high. Many families are in far more precarious financial situations. How does this align with the stated goal of helping Vermonters?

If the Commission is serious about achieving renewable energy goals, it must also be serious about protecting ratepayers. Approving continual rate increases while promoting electrification places the financial burden of climate policy squarely on the shoulders of ordinary citizens.

The transition to renewable energy should not come at the expense of affordability, nor should it disproportionately benefit corporate profit margins while residents struggle to heat their homes.

I respectfully urge the Commission to reject this rate increase and to prioritize rate stability and transparency. Vermonters deserve an energy future that is both sustainable and economically just.

Sincerely,
Lori Bernier