

Jennifer Ybarra



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From: Jim Butler [jimmy143@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2010 8:10 AM
To: Newman-Web
Subject: Southwest Gas Rate Hike

ORIGINAL

Mr. Newman,

I want to object to the proposed Southwest Gas Rate hike. We are being encouraged to economize and save natural energies and in that regard my wife and I purchase a solar water heater/tank to 1) help conserve energy and 2) lower our gas bill for heating water. However what happens is as the gas usage drops the gas companies just raise their rates so we end up paying more for our natural gas and at the same time spend several thousand dollars to conserve energy. We get hit on both sides when we are trying to do the right thing.

This business model where utilities have guaranteed profits must be changed and must be changed now or you will kill any incentive to conserve and this works both ways from the consumer side and the business side. The only way a business will change is if you force them to do so and now is a great time to do that with Southwest Gas. Please deny their requested rate increases and that same time tell them they need to figure out new ways to save just like the rest of us. I am sure they are overwhelming you with information on just how great they are doing however I can tell you this is smoke and mirrors. I used to work for Qwest in the regulatory department so I know how companies approach state commissions and how the justify rate increases.

Please forward my email to each of your fellow commission associates!

Thank you so much,

James Butler
1588 E Desert Garden Drive
Tucson, AZ 85718

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