



SIERRA
CLUB

DEAR TECO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Letters on Rate Increases and Unaffordable Energy Bills

Written by:

LOCAL TAMPA AREA RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS



Dear TECO Board Members,

I'm a very upset TECO customer, but I'm more upset with you. As a board member, you out of all people should care about the struggles Hillsborough county residents are going through and you are choosing to do nothing. You, instead, choose to support decisions that make life for people like me and my son hard. I have to decide each month what medicines or food to hold on to survive as the price of electricity is continuing to rise and I have to pay this bill.

Brittany Panton

Dear TECO Board Members,

I am writing to you as a Emera stockholder and a concerned citizen. As you know, Emera stock is doing quite well. The share price is steadily increasing and the ~4.3% stock dividend sets the standard in the industry and TECO is the cornerstone of those financial returns as cited not only in the information that Emera provides stockholders but also financial institutions, such as Bank of America in its recent assessment of Emera stock. All of this information is widely and publicly available.

This begs the question of why TECO is continuing to increase rates for its consumers while in contrast Duke Energy is lowering rates for their customers. Cited reasons do not match the narrative found in financial disclosures and information provided for stockholders. In fact, before the recent rate hike was approved, Emera's own website for stockholders informed us that a dividend increase was in the works. These narratives are at odds and cause a reasonable investor to question the integrity of TECO and Emera. Either Emera is not as financially sound as advertising or TECO is misrepresenting TECO's finances when requesting rate hikes.

We do well enough that we can afford the ever-increasing TECO rate hikes. However, many of our neighbors cannot. IF Emera is doing as well as represented then stop requesting rate hikes or even give a reduction. Otherwise, correct Emera's financial releases. The public image TECO presents to rate payers is that of a company exploiting Americans to send profits to Canada which does not play well in the current political environment. Alternatively, for investors, it is only a matter of time before they begin to question whether Emera is the next ENRON. I appreciate your time and look forward to the upcoming shareholder's meeting.

Semper fidelis,
Carl Bailey



Dear TECO Board Members,

I am writing you since I have learned you are a member of the Board of Directors of Tampa Electric. I am a customer of Tampa Electric, having been a residential electric customer in Tampa for over 40 years. I am a retiree who has been closely following TECO's ever increasing residential electric rates of late, and am TOTALLY frustrated at my inability as a consumer of electricity to affect Tampa Electric's continual disregard for the economic burdens of its most marginalized residential customers who are suffering from TECO's constantly increasing residential electric rates. I live in a community of retirees, and I hear these complaints constantly; you don't!

Unfair price gouging by TECO will not stand the test of time. Nor will ignoring solar energy as a source of clean energy over "natural" gas. As a customer of TECO, I expect Board Members to know the anguish we live with. Cannot Board Members demand of each other more transparency so that its customers trust your motives more?

Sincerely,
David Sinclair

Dear TECO Board Members,

As a customer of TECO it is ridiculous and unaffordable to continue to pay these high ass utility prices. As a veteran on fixed income, my bill eats up a portion of my income. I have to budget everything out carefully, but TECO every month goes up. I don't know what to expect on a monthly basis. Y'all sit there and make decisions for the residents and not only myself, I have friends paying three and four \$500 light bills and that's one third of their monthly income. Most of the residents around here on fixed income or low income and not six figures households. but you all sit there and make decisions as if it's affordable and it's not and it's not fair! Bring your asses off your horses and live in our shoes and how much groceries you able to buy versus lights heat and air! It's not fair at all! Please take it into consideration we are human, not just people who put money that put money in TECO pocket.

Don Lee



Dear TECO Board Members,

I am an 86-year-old resident living on a fixed income, and I am writing to formally complain about the recent increases in electric utility costs. These rising bills are placing an overwhelming strain on my financial stability and overall well-being.

As a senior, my income is limited and does not increase to match these rising expenses. The cost of electricity has become so high that I am forced to make painful choices between paying for my medications, groceries, and maintaining essential utilities. No senior should have to face such decisions.

The impact of these increases extends beyond finances—it affects health and safety. Adequate heating and cooling are critical for seniors, and the fear of unaffordable bills leads to reduced usage, which can be dangerous.

I strongly urge you to review current rate structures and consider implementing protections for elderly residents. Seniors should not bear the burden of excessive utility increases without meaningful support or safeguards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Emily Echols

Dear TECO Board Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the dramatic increase in my electric bill over recent months. As a senior citizen living on a fixed income, these rising costs are creating a serious financial burden and forcing difficult decisions about my daily living expenses.

The increase in my electric bill has reached a level that is no longer manageable within my limited monthly income. I now find myself having to choose between purchasing necessary medications, maintaining a safe and comfortable home environment, and paying my electricity bill. This is not a sustainable or acceptable situation for seniors like myself.



Electricity is not a luxury—it is a necessity, especially for older adults who may be more vulnerable to extreme temperatures and health conditions. The current rate increases are placing seniors at risk and undermining our ability to live safely and with dignity.

I respectfully request that immediate consideration be given to relief measures for seniors on fixed incomes. This could include rate adjustments, expanded assistance programs, or protections against excessive increases.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I hope meaningful action will be taken to address these concerns.

Sincerely,
Gloria Sterrex

Dear TECO Board Members,

I am writing to bring attention to the hardship caused by the recent increases in electric bills, particularly for seniors like myself who rely on a fixed income.

Over the past several months, my electric bill has increased significantly, far beyond what my budget can accommodate. As a result, I am now faced with extremely difficult decisions—whether to pay for electricity, purchase medications, or cover other essential living expenses.

This situation is especially concerning because electricity is essential for maintaining a safe and healthy home. For seniors, access to proper heating and cooling is critical, and the current cost increases are putting that at risk.

I respectfully ask that you consider implementing senior-specific relief programs or rate protections to prevent further hardship. Seniors should not have to sacrifice their health or basic needs due to rising utility costs.

I appreciate your attention to this issue and hope that action will be taken soon.

Sincerely,
Gwen Hewitt



Dear Mr. Sesh Thakkar, TECO Board Member,

My name is Janine Quarles Adkins and I am a single, working class African American woman residing in Tampa, Florida, and a paying TECO customer. By some standards, I may be considered on the lower end of Tampa's middle class, however, with the increase in cost of living, I have found it difficult at times to make ends meet.

As someone who was also required to pay a fairly high deposit, I was disheartened by the unexplained and unjustifiable increase in energy costs. Further, the unexplained costs have not amounted to environmental sustainable practices that protect our climate, contradicting what, as a proponent of economic vitality, might be expected of you.

I am writing to you directly in your capacity as a member of the Board of Directors for Tampa Electric Company (TECO). While your professional biography touts a legacy of "fueling innovation" and "economic vitality" through your leadership at the Tavistock Group and the Orlando Economic Partnership, your role in overseeing TECO's recent policies tells a starkly different story—one of economic disenfranchisement and public health negligence.

Mr. Thakkar, your reputation is built on expertise in Life Sciences and Economic Development. You have served on the board of GuideWell (Florida Blue) and helped vision Lake Nona Medical City, positioning yourself as a champion of health, wellness, and forward-thinking community planning.

It is, therefore, profound hypocrisy that you simultaneously govern a utility company that aggressively lobbies to keep burning coal at the Big Bend Power Station—directly contributing to the respiratory and cardiac health crises your medical partners fight to cure. As a leader in life sciences, you cannot claim ignorance regarding the carcinogenic and respiratory impacts of coal ash and sulfur dioxide. Yet, under your oversight, TECO continues to operate Unit 4, prioritizing obsolete fossil fuel infrastructure over the health of the Tampa Bay community. Furthermore, your background in "economic partnership" stands in direct contrast to TECO's predatory pricing strategy. Under this Board's watch, residential electricity bills have surged by nearly 82% over the last five years. This is not inflation; this is extraction.

While you champion economic growth in Orlando, your votes at TECO have trapped Tampa families in a cycle of energy poverty. Residents are currently signing petitions accusing TECO of price gouging, forcing fixed-income seniors and working-class families to choose between air conditioning and groceries. By approving relentless rate hikes while the company posts



significant profits, you are actively dismantling the economic security of the very demographic you claim to serve in your other ventures.

As a board member, you have a fiduciary and moral obligation to steer the company away from predatory practices. You are not a passive observer; your vote empowers these policies. We demand that you: Vote against future residential base rate increases, specifically those that exceed the rate of inflation or place undue burden on vulnerable communities. Champion the immediate retirement of Big Bend Unit 4, replacing it with genuine renewable energy investments (solar/storage) rather than capital-intensive gas projects that lock ratepayers into volatile fuel costs. Align your utility governance with your life sciences values, recognizing that a company cannot be "forward-thinking" while it burns coal and bankrupts its customers. Your legacy in Florida will not be defined solely by the medical cities you build, but also by the communities you allowed to be poisoned and impoverished.

Sincerely,
Janine Quarles Adkins

To The Honorable Pam Iorio, TECO Board Member:

Ms. Iorio, I am writing as a TECO resident to call you to account for supporting TECO in their price gouging of Tampa Bay residential customers. The Florida Public Service Commission has allowed TECO to charge the highest profits on expansions not needed to support residential customers. Meanwhile low and middle income renters and rate payers are subject to eviction and having their children taken by Child Protection Services. These injustices are the result of TECO management making bad decisions, with low income users subsidizing large energy users like data centers, and expansion of generators using gas instead of lower cost renewable sources.

As a TECO Board Member it is incumbent on you to correct this injustice. As mayor of Tampa you were a champion of the people, and we need you to take up that challenge again.

Your friend,
Jim Shirk



Dear TECO Board Members,

I am now seeing a large pile of coal over at the TECO Big Bend power plant and can see the smoke from burning coal coming from the last standing smoke stack. I know many community members who have dealt with cancer and COPD. I am a cancer survivor myself. Also, TECO has raised electric rates again against the voices of many community members speaking out against these rate hikes. I see and hear that many of my Apollo Beach community members are having trouble paying these higher bills. Your votes as a board member of TECO/Emera have supported the unfair price gouging of my community with these rate increases. These high electric bills and the continued burning of coal have damaged lives in major ways and you have remained silent the entire time!

Sincerely,
Nina Tatlock

Dear TECO Board Members,

I am writing to share my personal experience with TECO electric bills and express my severe disapproval of TECO's billing structure. As a homeowner with solar, I have not had to pay more than the basic service hook-up charge, which has routinely been ~\$27/month for years, and then after last year's hurricanes in Tampa Bay, and associated rate increases due to recovery costs, by bill decreased to ~ \$15/ month.

I am fortunate enough to have solar, those who are not fortunate enough to have that option (i.e. renters, lower income residents) have experienced significant increases in their TECO bill, while mine has decreased. I have not paid for any of the recovery costs for the hurricanes. This cost burden shift upon the less fortunate is not equitable. A just society would call upon the fortunate to step up when disaster strikes a community. At a minimum, I'm calling the actions of TECO this past year to be negligent.

I am imploring TECO to please adopt a fair and rational billing structure for residents, that at a minimum treats all fairly, and at best extremely limits the extra costs that vulnerable communities pay for unforeseen circumstances. You have power, you have responsibility that comes with this power. In your next approach to the PSC, and the next payrate restructuring, please adopt equitable changes.



And as always, the weather events that were so damaging to our communities are exasperated by rising tides and rising temperatures. We need your leadership in navigating to a sustainable future and away from fossil fuel usage.

**Sincerely,
Todd Randolph**

Dear TECO Board Members,

The energy burden with Teco is real. During the time when we had that cold snap. We ran the heater for a couple of days. We got a bill for over \$400 when our bill is usually \$150. We need sensible legislation from Tallahassee to mitigate this energy burden that is affecting people from all socio-economic backgrounds. Tampa Electric would only give you payment plan for one payment cycle. You have decide between food and electric bill. Let's organize and fight back!

Jarvis El Amin