

Dear Arizona Corporation Commission:

On behalf of the undersigned business owners and community leaders, we write to convey our serious concern regarding decisions the Commission is considering that would skyrocket utility costs, straining small and local businesses across our state that are already stretched thin. As the regulating body meant to hold utilities accountable and in check, we depend on the Commission to make decisions that prioritize the best interests of all Arizonans, not bending to the bottom lines of corporate utilities.

Energy costs are already rising, and upcoming rate cases will determine how much more Arizona businesses and families will be forced to pay in the years ahead. These increases are personal, and affect our ability to hire, grow, and stay competitive in an increasingly uncertain economy.

At the same time, the Commission has moved to repeal long-standing clean energy and energy efficiency rules that helped keep costs down by reducing fuel expenses and avoiding unnecessary power plant construction. Without strong replacement policies, Arizona risks relying more heavily on expensive fossil fuels, which are subject to volatile price swings and higher operating costs. Those costs are ultimately passed on to customers.

Decisions about what power plants utilities build and what investments they recover through rates are directly tied to what shows up on our monthly bills. When utilities are allowed to spend more on costly infrastructure or fuel, business owners, too, pay the price.

We are deeply concerned that current energy policies and pending rate cases could lock Arizona into higher costs for decades while exposing businesses to greater financial risk and less predictability, hurting Arizona's economy, and threatening job opportunities.

We urge the Commission to recognize that energy affordability is an economic issue, and deeply impacts stakeholders including small businesses, workers, and families. It's up to the Commission to reign in greedy utilities intent on reckless and irresponsible spending with ratepayer dollars.

Signed,

Arizona Business & Community Leaders