

Control Number: 49421



Item Number: 40

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION FILING CLERK

Customer Protection Division Public Utility Commission of Texas P. O. Box 13326 Austin, TX 78711-3326

To the Customer Protection Division,

Re: Docket Number: 49421

I have reviewed the notice of rate change request which was posted in the April 18 edition <u>Houston Chronicle</u>. Based on the information provided I used the proposed rates and recalculated my 2018 and year-to-date 2019 electrical bills.

Utilizing the proposed change in rates, the average increase in my CenterPoint Energy charges of approximately 26% over the past 16 months (\$438.19 in costs prior to the rate increase vs \$550.52 if the new rate was in-force during that timeframe).

I do not think it is reasonable for the company to request that an average residential homeowner to bear an increased cost of 26% for their services. Their analysis of their increase to residential customers is quite misleading once you actually run their proposed rates on an actual residential customer. Please remember that the company received approximately a significant tax break in the first year after the new tax legislation was passed (Source: Houston Chronicle June 15, 2018 "The company reported a profit of \$1.8 billion in 2017 —including a one-time gain of \$1.1 billion in federal tax savings — compared to \$432 million it earned the previous year.) with the reduction of corporate tax rates to 21% (from 35%) and will continue to be taxed at that lower rate for the foreseeable future.

I urge you to not accept the proposed increase proposed by CenterPoint Energy. Thank you for your consideration.

John Kajander

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