

Date Submitted: April 12, 2018

Proceeding name: FortisBC Inc. 2017 Cost of Service Analysis & Rate Design

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party: No

Name (first and last): Lorraine Symmes

City: Kaslo

Province: British Columbia

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Comment:

-----Original Message----- From: Lorraine Symmes [REDACTED] Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 3:27 PM To: Commission Secretary BCUC:EX Cc: Mungall.MLA, Michelle LASS:EX; Eby.MLA, David LASS:EX; Weaver.MLA, Andrew LASS:EX; Wilkinson.MLA, Andrew LASS:EX; electricity.regulatory.affairs@fortisbc.com Subject: FortisBC Inc 2017 Cost of Service Analysis and Rate Design Patrick Wruck, Secretary BC Utilities Commission, Dear Commissioner Wruck, I am writing you with grave concerns over the proposed changes that Fortis has requested for Basic Charges, service rates and for raising the Tier one rate in the West Kootenays. My husband and I have lived near Kaslo BC for over 20 years and have noticed, what we feel has been an increased attitude of entitlement and belligerence by Fortis BC during that time. Why has Fortis been allowed to implement rate increases that have been above the rate of inflation, for over 30 years? Their proposal, from one who may have to incur these rate increases, appears usury at best. In their analysis, using the "Minimum System Methodology" they are placing undue burdens on low use customers, and unfair treatment to residential customers by double allocating their costs, compared to commercial customers. This seems heavily punitive, and for people like me-- a senior on a fixed income, the burden would be significant. It also seems doubly unfair, that people in my area already have to pay higher costs than residential customers who are serviced by BC Hydro, just a short distance away. And finally, on top of everything--it seems cruelly ironic, that we are all (locally) on the Columbia River system that provides hydro through past systemic damming and flooding of lands at great initial costs to our communities. If anyone should be benefiting more from the hydro rates generated by the Columbia system, one would think it should be us. Perhaps if justice were to be served, we should be enjoying a significant rebate every year, rather than a hike in our rates? In conclusion, I ask your Commission to take a hard look at these excessive rate proposals and turn them down. Respectfully yours, Lorraine Symmes [REDACTED] cc: Hon. Michelle Mungall; Hon David Eby; Hon Andrew Weaver; Hon Andrew Wilkinson; Corey Sinclair