

**FRANK BURNS**, MEMBER  
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**COMMITTEES**

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March 19, 2024

Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**RE: Docket No. R-2023-3044549**

Dear Commissioner DeFrank:

I write today to express my opposition to the proposed rate hikes filed by Peoples Natural Gas and Peoples Gas. The requested rate increases would mean customers in Western Pennsylvania will pay an additional \$156 million per year for their gas service, which amounts to average increases of 21.4 percent for PNG customers or 7.6 percent for PG customers.

This rate hike would unfairly strap a financial burden on residents who can least afford to pay it. In my district, many residents are older and on fixed incomes, or struggle generally to make ends meet. Even before surging inflation rates over the last two years hiked the price of everyday goods, Johnstown was labeled the poorest small city in Pennsylvania. My constituents simply cannot bear a rate increase of this magnitude.

As noted by the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate, the above estimates are for the so-called "average" residential customers and often underestimate the price increase on many families. As OCA said in its complaint against this rate hike, Peoples seeks "to shift risk away from the Company and on to its customers in excessive and extraordinary ways" with this proposal.

For the above reasons, I strongly oppose the Peoples rate increase request and urge the Commission to reject the proposal. Thank you for your consideration, and if you have any questions regarding my position, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Burns".

Frank Burns  
State Representative  
72<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District