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Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)

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Email: mpscedockets@michigan.gov

Subject: Objection to Consumers Energy Gas Rate Increase Request – Case No. U-21806

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Michigan and a customer of Consumers Energy (CMS) to express my strong opposition to the proposed natural gas rate increase submitted by the utility.

Michigan families and small businesses are already facing significant financial burdens due to rising costs of living, including energy expenses. A rate increase at this time would impose additional hardship on customers, especially seniors (like my wife and me), low-income households (like my wife and me), and those living on fixed incomes (like my wife and me).

Additionally, I believe that Consumers Energy must prioritize operational efficiency and cost-cutting measures within their existing framework rather than passing costs on to consumers. There must also be greater transparency in how ratepayer funds are spent, particularly with regard to **executive compensation**, and infrastructure investments. Recently, Consumers Energy has received two natural gas price increases as approved by the MPSC: **Case No. U-21308**, \$95 million in 2023 effective October 1, 2023, original request was \$212 million, and **Case U-21490**, \$35 million in 2024 effective October 1, 2024, original request was \$136 million. In the request at bar, **Case No. U-21806**, (which was filed 10/15/2024, **just 15 days after the last approved rate increase**) they are requesting \$248 million. In every case, CMS cites multiple justifications (usually the same or similar reasons) for the increase including pay and merit increases. The merit increases would presumably be for top company administrators. The following compensation information is gleaned from CMS 2024 filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission:

Name and Principal Position	Year	Total Compensation (in Millions, for respective year)
Garrick J. Rochow, President & CEO, CMS & Consumers	2024, 2023, 2022	10,401,409; 9,637,210; 8,706,194
Rejii P. Hayes, Executive Vice President & CFO, CMS & Consumers	2024, 2023, 2022	4,011,384; 3,755,609; 3,586,679