

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Union Electric Company,                    )  
d/b/a AmerenUE's Tariff to Increase Its Annual                ) File No. ER-2011-0028  
Revenues for Electric Service                                    )

**NOTICE REGARDING EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION**

Issue Date: February 17, 2011

On February 17, 2011, I received the attached letter from Sam Weston,  
Board Member of the Missouri Association of Meat Processors (MAMP).

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin D. Gunn  
Chairman

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2011.



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*Missouri Association of Meat Processors*

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February 10, 2011

On behalf of the Missouri Association of Meat Processors, I would like to address the proposed Ameren rate increase, which will be heard by the Public Service Commission in the next few weeks. The Missouri Association of Meat Processors (MAMP) is an organization of small to mid-size lockers and meat production facilities that have been in existence since 1929. These plants are typically family owned, multi-generational and represent a shrinking commodity in the United States known as 'small business owners.' Ameren's insistence on increasing the price of electricity and power is yet another blow to the already fragile meat and food industry. The other 'wolves at the door' are healthcare costs, escalating sales and property taxes and supply costs. MAMP understands that Ameren would like to build a better grid, a more solid fail-safe energy supply and provide more benefits/returns to its employees and shareholders. We would like to do the same for our employees and their families. Unlike asking the Public Service Commission for a hearing, MAMP members must borrow the money from banks to improve their infrastructure, which are now reluctant to make such loans, or costing cutting, like asking employees to shoulder more of their healthcare costs. These small business owners do not make millions in profits, over and above what is paid to shareholders. These small businesses do, however, buy millions of dollars in goods and services in the state of Missouri and nationwide.

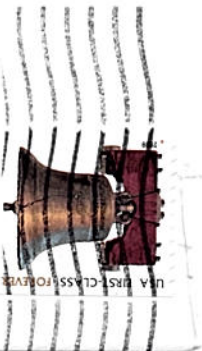
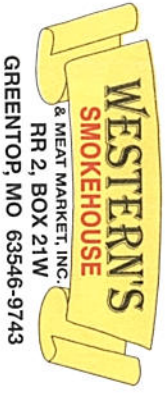
It seems that Governor Nixon and President Obama have called on this nation to support and preserve small businesses in the United States and that small business holds the key to more jobs and a path out of the recession. We support these two elected officials but also hold them accountable. The PSC must go back to being the agency for the 'public' not big business. MAMP asks for nothing; we have built businesses through hard work, taking risks and generations of families who have been blessed to share in the American dream. All we ask is that Ameren do the same.

We request that you share this letter at the next Public Service Commission hearing. We hope the judge will rule in favor of small business and deny a rate hike to Ameren.

Respectfully,

Sam Western, President, Western's Smokehouse, Inc.  
Board Member, Missouri Association of Meat Processors (MAMP)

cc. Office of Public Counsel ✓  
Chairman Robert Clayton, Missouri Public Service Commission  
Ameren  
Governor Jay Nixon



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