1	CHARE OF MICCOURT
1	STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
3	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
4	Local Public Hearing
5	January 25, 2017
6	St. Louis, Missouri
7	Volume 12
8	In the Matter of Union )
9	Electric Company, d/b/a )
10	Ameren Missouri's Tariffs) File No. ER-2016-0179
11	To Increase its Revenues )
12	For Electric Service )
13	MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding
14	CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
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16	Maida J. Coleman
17	Scott Rupp
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1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Good evening, once again. ready to start the second part of our local public hearing. 2 Those who missed earlier, my name is Morris Woodruff, I'm one of 3 the judges for the commission and I'll be the presiding officer I have with me three of the five commissioners, 5 this evening. Commissioner Maida Coleman, to my left here is Commissioner 6 7 Steven Stoll, and to my immediate left here is Commissioner 8 Scott Rupp, and Commissioner Rupp wishes to make an opening 9 statement. 10 MR. RUPP: On behalf of my fellow commissioners, we welcome everybody, thank you for coming out tonight and letting 11 us know what's on your mind. There are two other commissioners 12 that could not be here today, but we do have a court reporter 13 that will be taking down all of your testimony and putting it 14 into written form and they will have the opportunity to review 15 16 your testimony as well. Just to explain a couple of things is that when you 17 18 come up and testify, if you were to pose any questions toward the commissioners, we are unable to respond to those questions. 19 Just think of this as like a judge during the court case, you 20 can't just ask the judge questions in the middle of a court 21 case. So this is the beginning of the process, and what's going 2.2 23 to happen is later on in a few months we will actually have a 24 hearing in Jefferson City, you can watch those on-line if you 25 would like to, and we will have all the different parties in the

case put, we'll put witnesses on the witness stand they will be 1 sworn, and will have evidence entered into the record and it 2 will be a full blown trial on this pending question should the 3 company receive a rate increase and everything, so that's when it will culminate. 5 So you're at the beginning of the process which we all 6 7 believe is one of the most important, because this is your opportunity to let us know what is on your mind, not only with 8 9 this possible rate case, but also with customer service. 10 does the company act in the community, are they good community partners, those are all great things that we like to hear from 11 everybody in attendance. Thank you very much for coming. 12 13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: If you notice as you came in, there was a sign up sheet as you came up in the lobby, we've had 14 15 twenty people sign up, I'm going to ask you to come up to the 16 podium, I'll swear you in to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth and give you chance to state your concerns 17 18 to the commission. You may notice that we have a timer up here, we ask that everybody try to keep their comments to about five 19 20 minutes so we can keep things moving along this evening, give everybody a chance to speak. After you've made your statement, 21 the commissioner or the attorneys for the parties may have some 2.2 23 questions for you, so just remain at the podium for a few 24 moments, and we'll go ahead and get started. Before we do that, 25 we need to have the attorneys for the parties enter their

- 1 appearance, just so we know for the record who is here, we'll
- 2 begin with attorney for Ameren.
- 3 MS. TATRO: Good evening, Wendy Tatro, 1901 Choteau
- 4 Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, 63166.
- 5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, and the attorney for the
- 6 staff.
- 7 MS. MERS: My name is Nicole Mers representing the
- 8 staff of Missouri Public Service Commission. My information has
- 9 previously been provided to the court reporter. Thank you all
- 10 for attending.
- 11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: The Office of Public Counsel.
- 12 MR. SMITH: Good evening, Ryan Smith for the Office of
- 13 Public Counsel, my information has also been provided, thank
- 14 you.
- 15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much. I believe
- 16 that's all the attorneys for parties here tonight, we'll start
- 17 with the first witness, which is Janell Burch. Good evening.
- MS. BURCH: I didn't know when I signed in that I was
- 19 going to be approaching you all, she just told me to sign in.
- 20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I need to swear you in first. And
- 21 you are Janell Burch?
- MS. BURCH: Correct.
- 23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please spell your last name for the
- 24 court reporter.
- MS. BURCH: B-U-R-C-H.

1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. And please raise your 2 right hand. 3 (Witness sworn) JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us? MS. BURCH: Well, after I had asked the question about 5 the legal -- the lawsuit in 2016 I thought of a question later, 6 7 what percentage of that cost goes to us customers, so that's what I would like to know. 8 9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Well, as this commissioner said, we 10 can't answer questions at this point. MS. BURCH: Right, exactly. 11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: But if you have a chance after the 12 13 hearing to catch one of the Ameren people or one of our staff people out front, they might be able to answer the question for 14 15 you? 16 MS. BURCH: Okay, thank you. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anything else you'd like to add? 17 18 MS. BURCH: No, I just would appreciate if we do not get that increase of THE \$8.25 a month, that is very high 19 20 increase and according to the previous increases that we talked 21 about years prior. Thank you. 2.2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much. The next name 23 on the list is Jerry Jones. And you are Jerry Jones, just like

MR. JONES: Yes, sir, my name is Jerry Jones.

it sounds.

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1	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right hand.
2	(Witness sworn)
3	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Well what would you like to tell us?
4	MR. JONES: Well, first of all, I'm a low income
5	person, I had a job until 2009, with the recession in 2008 I was
6	laid off, so I had two choices, take social security early, or
7	live on the streets, the streets was not an option, so I took it
8	early. And I broke down while I was sitting here out of a, I
9	get a total of \$10,726.80 a year, out of that, I have \$9,468 to
10	spend. Of that, 58 percent of it goes for mortgage, 15 percent
11	goes for utilities, that's a total of 73 percent. Of that I
12	have 27 percent left over, which on a yearly basis is a little
13	over \$2,556.36 which averages out over twelve months to be
14	\$213.03 a month, that's for food, gas, anything, clothing,
15	whatever. Being a veteran and low income, my medications from
16	the VA are paid for, my hospitalization through them are paid
17	for, but I still have Medicare, because never hurts to have
18	someone back you up.
19	All right. My electric bill for this year is one of
20	8.6 percent increase in usage, that's more than I normally let
21	happen because I do it by month by month, because when you only
22	have \$213.03 to spend on food, utilities, gasoline and
23	everything, you just have to, pinch your pennies. Now the \$8.27
24	may not seem much, or \$206 million dollars, they want to give me
25	a million dollars, I'll get off this podium in a minute. I

- 1 think when they were talking about how CEOs are rated on 500,
- 2 whatever the rest of it is, I'm not sure. Given them such
- 3 exorbitant amount of salaries, I'd go there myself and take his
- 4 job over for a tenth of that and be happy. The more money you
- 5 have, the more you got to spend and the more money you spend the
- 6 less you enjoy life. Like I said, I'm low income, but I'm
- 7 enjoying life, I'm 69 and I'm proud of it.
- 8 I'm proud of my military service, I don't have
- 9 problems with any company making a profit or seeing that their
- 10 investors get some money on their investments, I think that's an
- 11 advantage, but when you've had a recession, when you're coming
- 12 out of recession, when you see companies that have been in
- 13 business for as long as Ameren has been in business, when it
- 14 used to be called Union Electric, they never, never, look to the
- 15 future of how they can make and keep money set aside in capital
- 16 improvements.
- 17 Now I know we're going to get an increase, I got a .3
- 18 increase, .3 percent increase, that's about \$2 and it went to
- 19 Medicare. So I'm not getting an increase, but I know I'm going
- 20 to have to take that \$213.03 a month, I'm going to have to take
- 21 at least \$3.00 to \$7.00 out, depending on what you decide. But
- 22 I speak for not many people, I speak for a lot of people in
- 23 Missouri, that can't really afford companies that fail to bring
- 24 their equipment up to speed, they wait 40 years and then they
- 25 want to replace it. MSD has had it's problems, because it

- 1 didn't use technology 40 years ago, they just kept putting it
- 2 off and putting it off. We can't keep putting off our upgrades
- 3 and our technology, and expect us to live in an environment that
- 4 is conducive to us to enjoy our lives.
- 5 And I know my time is getting short so I'll have one
- 6 final thing to say, is that out of everything that goes on in
- 7 this country, we have to look out for the other guy, education,
- 8 is prominent, I thank you gentleman.
- 9 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you for your testimony, any
- 10 questions? Thank you. Next name on the list is Jeanne Clauson.
- 11 Good evening, first off would you say and spell your name for
- 12 the court reporter?
- 13 MS. CLAUSON: My is Jeanne Clauson J-E-A-N-N-E
- 14 C-L-A-U-S-O-N.
- 15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you would you please raise your
- 16 right hand.
- 17 (Witness sworn)
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us?
- 19 MS. CLAUSON: I would just like to have some questions
- 20 here, I know you won't answer them, but putting them out there.
- 21 I have solar panels on my house, had them for three and a half
- 22 years, and so do a lot of other people here, so at the end of
- 23 the month what we don't use ourself goes to the grid for
- 24 everybody else to use, I'm fine with that, but I really don't
- 25 like having to pay \$8 more a month when I've got solar, you

- know, benefitting from that, for electricity, so that's one 1 problem. And then you have to consider the renewable energy 2 standard that was passed in 2008 with 60 percent of the voters, 3 4 demanding and agreed upon that 15 percent of Ameren's power 5 should come from renewables by 2021. My question is, who is checking on that, who is determining whether any of that's 6 7 happening, because it's not common knowledge and they only got four more years to come up with that. So, but one good thing 8 9 was in July of 2015, it was in the paper, yeah, that Ameren 10 announced plans for a 70-acre solar array along Highway 70, had pictures and everything else, all that was seemingly approved, 11 which looked really good. In October a few months later, they 12 13 put it on hold, now I don't understand that, and they're really doing seemingly a lot less than other utilities in the state. 14 15 Kansas City Power and Light estimates that their investment in 16 wind and energy efficiency will save it's customers a billion dollars over 20 years, and we don't hear anything like that 17 18 Springfield, Columbia and Kirkwood all have found around here.
- 21 brought in by these clean lines and everything that is
- 22 transporting wind power from Western Kansas, and I think we
- 23 should be hearing about that.
- So, I think our overreliance on coal is costing all of

that the cost of wind power is 25 percent less than coal, and we

don't hear anything about much wind power being used, they've

25 us money, you can say in the rates because of the other plant

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- 1 that closed, but I mean, it's got to be affecting us, when
- 2 cheaper power and cleaner power is out there, I would just like
- 3 to see some accountability of Ameren moving in that direction.
- 4 That's it.
- 5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much, any questions?
- 6 MR. RUPP: I might mention regarding the renewables
- 7 and who checks on that, and a couple of the other questions that
- 8 you asked, you might talk to our staff or the Office of Public
- 9 Counsel. Office of Public Counsel represents the rate payers,
- 10 but our staff is also here to answer those questions, and they
- 11 can certainly give you the answers to the questions that you
- 12 asked. Okay, thank you for your testimony.
- MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.
- 14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Ma'am, I'll point out our staff
- 15 person is the man with the mustache back there in the checked
- 16 sweater, that's Dan Beck and he can answer your questions.
- 17 Next name on my list is Sara Edgar. And you are Sara Edgar?
- MS. EDGAR: Yes. E-D-G-A-R.
- 19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right hand.
- 20 (Witness sworn)
- 21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us?
- MS. EDGAR: Well, I'm here both on behalf of myself as
- 23 well as to deliver that very fancy box that contains 1,500
- 24 comments from citizens in the St. Louis region urging you to
- 25 reject this rate increase. The reasoning why people are asking

- 1 to reject it is because people would rather see a different rate
- 2 structure rather than this mandatory charge, because the
- 3 mandatory charge discourages energy efficiency, whereas change
- 4 to the rate structure such as a reclining block rates would
- 5 incentivize energy efficiency and reward people that are
- 6 investing in energy efficiency in their homes.
- 7 So that's that box over there, and then in addition
- 8 I'd like to make my own comments, and you know, in addition to
- 9 sort of similar concerns with being opposed to this rate
- 10 increase, and preferring to see a change to the rate structure
- 11 rather than a mandatory charge, I'd also like to make comments
- 12 in regards to Ameren's continued reliance on coal and their
- 13 failure to make a rapid transition to clean energy. You know,
- 14 we just heard the news that was mentioned previously about the
- 15 Rush Island decision, I think that underscores that by
- 16 continuing to rely on dirty coal, we are seeing costs being born
- 17 on the public in terms of public health cost from the
- 18 overreliance on coal, failure to install scrubbers and
- 19 lifesaving technologies, and we're also seeing as was mentioned,
- 20 the legal costs being bore by the rate payers. So that's a
- 21 significant concern, but what we're also seeing is more and more
- 22 utilities are making the transition to clean energy, so for
- 23 instance, as I think was referenced, Springfield Utilities, or
- 24 Springfield City Utilities in Springfield, Missouri is going to
- 25 be at 36 percent wind power this year, and when they looked into

- 1 that, they found that by transitioning to wind that was actually
- 2 25 percent cheaper than continuing to use their existing coal
- 3 plant. And so we're also seeing Kansas City Power and Light
- 4 making transitions to wind, they've announced that it's going to
- 5 save their rate payers over a billion dollars over the next
- 6 twenty years. We're seeing these utilities making major
- 7 advancement, so Springfield Utility is going to be at 36
- 8 percent, Kansas City Power and Light says by 2034 they're going
- 9 to be at 31 percent wind power, whereas we're seeing Ameren is
- 10 currently at one percent clean energy, and it's still in the
- 11 integrated resource plan, at least the most recent one I saw,
- 12 still thinks they will be in the single digits for clean energy
- 13 for 2034.
- And so I would like to publically put my support
- 15 behind advancing more rapidly towards clean energy, because I
- 16 think it's in the best interest for our public health as well as
- 17 addressing environment concerns in our community as well as
- 18 helping rate payers save money in the long-term. Thank you.
- 19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any question? As far as your
- 20 documents in the box, if you want to leave them there we'll
- 21 collect them afterwards. So everyone knows, public comments are
- 22 available on the commission website, PSC.mo.gov, and they are
- 23 available for the public to read, thank you.
- 24 The next name on the list is Susanna Bell, good
- 25 evening, if you would spell your first name for the court

1 reporter. MS. BELL: It's Susanne, it's not Susanna. 2 3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. MS. BELL: It's S-U-S-A-N-N-E. 5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And Bell is B-E-L-L? 6 MS. BELL: Correct. 7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right. I need to swear you 8 first. Raise your right hand. 9 (Witness sworn) 10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us? MS. BELL: First of all, I want to thank you guys for, 11 the commission for hearing my testimony. My name is Susanne 12 Bell, I'm a graduate student at Washington University at St. 13 Louis and also I'm a disabled vet. I support myself off the 14 15 disability pension I get from my service in the military, this 16 past summer I saw my electricity bill go from \$45 a month to \$300 a month. I did not move, this was only the cost of cooling 17 18 my apartment in one of the hottest summers that St. Louis has ever seen. It stretched my budget and I had to cut back on 19 groceries. I'm on a fixed income, the little I get goes to 20 21 paying electric bills and other living expenses. Now Ameren wants to raise my electricity rates again to pay for their bad 2.2 23 investments in dirty energy. I'm asking you, the commission, to 24 stand up for people like me just like I proudly stood up for you 25 and deny this rate increase. Ameren should do the right thing

- 1 for the people of Missouri, invest in wind energy and solar
- 2 energy, this will save rate payers money, not only on our
- 3 utility bills, but on our health care costs as well.
- I am also a social work student and I care about the
- 5 kids who live here in Missouri, who do not have any voices in
- 6 this room. Coal plants are making the air they breathe dirtier
- 7 and they cannot speak up for themselves, I also speak for the
- 8 elderly person who is disabled that lives on a fixed income.
- 9 They have to make a choice between food, medicine and electric
- 10 bills. No one should have to make the decision between eating
- 11 for the month or paying their electric bills. It's time for
- 12 Ameren to be held accountable for the decisions that may make in
- 13 providing electricity in a safe and cleaner way, thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much, any questions?
- 15 MR. RUPP: Thank you for your testimony.
- 16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list is Sharon King.
- 17 Good evening, you are Sharon King I assume?
- MS. KING: Yes, I am.
- 19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right hand.
- 20 (Witness sworn)
- 21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. What would you like to
- 22 tell us?
- 23 MS. KING: I think my greatest problem is I don't use
- 24 enough electricity to suit them, I don't have a dryer, I don't
- 25 use a TV, I don't have a computer, although I get calls to fix

- 1 my computer. I've always used the sunshine to dry my clothes,
- 2 in the wintertime, the heat does it. I went to Kentucky in 2013
- 3 about and they very proudly showed us the solar field with the
- 4 solar panels that customers could buy, you didn't have to put it
- 5 on your house, you didn't have to make all those changes, and I
- 6 thought that was a very great idea, but I haven't seen anything
- 7 with Ameren doing anything like that. My churches has done it
- 8 on the school roof just in the last year because they got the
- 9 credit from the state and whatever, and that has really made a
- 10 difference, we're pretty well a green church in doing that,
- 11 that's all I have to say.
- 12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much, any questions?
- 13 Thank you, ma'am. Next name on the list is Sharon Bertram.
- 14 Good evening, if you'd spell your last name for the court
- 15 reporter.
- MS. BERTRAM: B-E-R-T-R-A-M.
- 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much, would you please
- 18 raise your right hand?
- 19 (Witness sworn)
- 20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us?
- 21 MS. BERTRAM: My name is Sharon Bertram, and I live in
- 22 Mehlville, South St. Louis County. I've lived in my present
- 23 home for 22 years, and thanks for cutting all the trees down,
- 24 because even though my power lines are underground we rely on
- 25 the other people whose are above ground and I appreciate the

- electricity, thank you. 1 I urge you to reject or greatly reduce and it appears 2 that the Public Service Commission has already suggested a much 3 lower rate increase, to reject or reduce the proposed Ameren 5 Missouri rate increase. Ameren proposes an approximately 7.8 percent increase for a typical residential customer, and that is 6 7 approximately \$8. Recently, I received my personalized home energy report and I was so happy, I received an outstanding year 8 9 efficiency rating. I rank in about the 12th percentile, you 10 know, and I think Ameren should be paying me, but no, I'm still paying them, but that's the way it is I quess. 11 Okay, so the reasons given for this rate increase are 12 13 infrastructure investments, okay. Increased cost charged by regional transmission operators, okay, and reduced demand for 14 15 electricity, you know, so we all use less, and we have to pay 16 more and I understand from the previous segment of the evening about the loss of the Noranda plant and all that, but still, it 17 18 seems you know that Ameren is making the rest of the rate payers pay for the loss of income from the Noranda plant. 19 20 And I think one thing has become evident tonight is
- 21 that I think the rate payers need to communicate more with
- 22 Ameren and Ameren really needs to communicate their needs and
- 23 what they're doing positively to the rate payers, I think that
- 24 would create more of a positive spirit on both sides.
- 25 Yes this rate increase called for by Ameren is the

- 1 smallest of the rate increases asked for in the last ten years,
- 2 but there have been seven increases in ten years. I know that
- 3 my social security hasn't gone up that many times. I paid
- 4 Ameren \$62 earlier this month, January 2017. Two years ago, I
- 5 paid \$48, that's a 20 percent increase, and now my bill could go
- 6 up to \$75 with the \$8 rate increase plus a fixed fee.
- 7 The only resource that we rate payers have is you the
- 8 Public Service Commission. Oh, yes, Ameren asks for a large
- 9 rate increase, the PSC reduces it, this game gets played out
- 10 year after year and I think we're getting tired of it, and of
- 11 course there is no choice for electricity in our area, so here
- 12 we are, we're going with Ameren. So Ameren wants also the \$4.89
- 13 energy grid access charge and this is on top of an already
- 14 existing customer fee, and I quote from the article in the Post
- 15 Dispatch, January 9, 2017. It is very unpopular to raise these
- 16 fixed fees. The issue is how much of your monthly bill is going
- 17 to be from a fixed fee, and how much you're able to control
- 18 through your own usage.
- 19 So, Ameren wants an \$8 plus a \$4.79 increase,
- 20 approximately \$13 and I urge you to reject this abuse.
- 21 Referring to the shareholders, they take their chances, some
- 22 years are happy, some are sadder, who knows about what they get
- 23 off of their stock.
- 24 So Ameren continues to avoid compliance with the Clean
- 25 Air Act by relying on old costly outdated coal plants instead of

cleaning them up, Rush Island and Meramec, for many of us, it's 1 not just the electric bill that we pay, we're always paying for 2 health care costs for treatment of asthma and other breathing 3 disorders. I urge Ameren to think creatively and plan for 5 renewable sources of power, wind, solar, rather than relying heavily on the use of coal to generate electricity and to lower 6 7 our rates, usage and fixed. I do look forward to the Public Service Commission's consideration and decision on the rate 8 9 increase. Thank you very much. 10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, any questions? Next name is Jan Burmeister. If you'd spell your last name 11 12 MS. BURMEISTER: Jan B-U-R-M-E-I-S-T-E-R. 13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you very much. 14 (Witness sworn) 15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us? 16 MS. BURMESITER: Well, in preparing for this evening, I tried to find a comprehensive history of utility rate 17 18 increases and grants, after searching numerous news clips on line and searching the websites of Laclede Gas, Missouri 19 20 American Water and Ameren and the sewer district, and the commission, I couldn't find, there were scattered tidbits all 21 over. So I put them together when I did, it painted kind of a 2.2 23 disturbing picture of a revolving door. It seems like every two 24 years, it's usually Ameren first, and then when they get their 25 grant, Laclede Gas comes out and asks for theirs, then it's

- 1 Missouri American Water, and then it's Ameren again, then it's
- 2 Laclede Gas again, then it's Missouri American Water, then Metro
- 3 Sewer District pops in every two cycles. When you add all of
- 4 those together, all the utilities, and between depending on the
- 5 utilities, the increases have been in the last five years
- 6 between 12 and 47 percent. You must begin to appreciate the
- 7 burden this places on fixed income people who have gone years
- 8 without the social security increase.
- 9 Since the last time we've been through this, and been
- 10 to these meetings, all necessities for living have increased in
- 11 cost, and that's health care, food, gasoline and now utilities
- 12 one by one. Fixed income for seniors, however, has not
- 13 increased. Instead of asking every two years, maybe Ameren could
- 14 take some cost cutting measures of their own, and I don't know
- 15 if you can encourage them to do this, such as reducing the
- 16 enormous amount they're paying attorneys and consultants to file
- 17 these rate increase requests. And perhaps they could pursue
- 18 other streams of revenue like foundation grants to help seniors
- 19 or local and state funding or federal stimulus money for clean
- 20 air and alternative fuel programs. Some of these and plant
- 21 updates should be part of their operating overhead and not an
- 22 expense that's always passed on to the consumer. We
- 23 respectfully request the commission to rule based not on what
- 24 Ameren and their investors want, but what their customers can
- 25 afford without undue hardship. We suggest any rate increase

- 1 mirror the cost of living increases granted to those of us on
- 2 fixed income, and that any increase approved contain a rollback
- 3 or a cut off clause once the legitimate needs of Ameren have
- 4 been met.
- 5 Finally, one of the reasons for this rate increase was
- 6 to help businesses that are larger users of electricity with
- 7 lower rates, so reduce the rates of businesses, and pass that
- 8 rate increase on to residential customers means for business it
- 9 means profit, for us it means survival, thank you.
- 10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions? Thank you. Next name
- 11 on the list is Francis Babb. Good evening.
- MS. BABB: Good evening.
- 13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Can you please spell your name.
- MS. BABB: F-R-A-N-C-I-S B-A-B-B.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.
- 16 (Witness sworn)
- 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, what would you like to
- 18 tell us?
- 19 MS. BABB: I'd like to tell you that I am a solar
- 20 customer, I have two solar homes one here in the St. Louis area
- 21 in Chesterfield, and a second one down at the Lake of the Ozarks
- 22 and for the purpose of this talking with you guys today, I'm
- 23 going to focus on our lake house property in the Ozarks.
- 24 We worked very carefully with Ameren's renewal energy
- 25 team when we designed our system about four and a half years ago

to size our system properly such that we wouldn't have an 2 electric bill. Now how this has worked for us in the past is we've had about an average \$100 a month before we turned solar 3 bill, whenever -- before we turned solar, we had about \$100 a 5 month bill. And after we turned solar, ballpark here about ten months out of the year we have zero electric bill because we're 6 7 cutting into that \$8 a month customer charge. However, during 8 the winter months, we got socked with a huge bill that makes up 9 the delta in such a way that at the end of the year we pretty 10 much a wash. 11 Okay, where I have problems with this rate increase that's being proposed is in the fixed rate of what we're paying, 12 okay, right now we got \$8 month, it's going to go up to \$8 plus 13 \$4.79 that's like a 50 percent increase, more than 50 percent 14 15 increase in the fixed charges, so basically, you're cutting into 16 my systems value in such a way that now instead of ten months out of the year not having electric bill, I'm going to have 17 18 electric bill pretty much every month, and I invested a huge amount of money in this solar energy system back when the rates 19 20 for solar panels were a lot higher than they are today, so in essence, you're cutting the value of my system, and I don't like 21 that. And also too, my solar energy system has a direct value, 2.2 23 a direct proportion to my property values, so my system is less 24 valuable, my property is less valuable, and that's even a bigger 25 hit to my pocketbooks. So what I would suggest is a couple

things, number one, I would suggest that you seriously reject 1 2 this \$4.79 a month extra charge that you want to make me pay, make all of us pay, and second of all I'd like for you all to 3 4 consider for future references, time of use metering. that me as a solar customer could really benefit from this. 5 could charge my electric car in the middle of the night, I don't 6 7 have to do it at 5:00 in the evening, I can do it in the middle of the night without any kind of problem whatsoever. consider the race increases in the future, rate structures in 9 10 the future, consider time of use metering. 11 And the last thing I want to tell you about completely irrelevant to my solar is about the trees in my yard. My house 12 in Chesterfield is a heavily wooded lot with great big massive, 13 and I mean massive trees in my backyard that have never, you 14 15 know, never been cut ever before, and Ameren comes along and 16 they take a chain saw to these trees at about the four and a half foot high and leave me a four-and-a-half-foot stump with a 17 18 great big huge 75-year-old tree, not just one, but a whole bunch of them, laying over in my backyard in such a way that my chain 19 saw can't cut these things up without, you know, hiring a 20 professional to do it, and I think it's just absolutely wrong 21 that Ameren and it's subcontractors can leave me a four and a 2.2 23 half foot tall stump and a greet big mess in my yard without me 24 having any kind of recourse about it. So, if you could, please 25 address that issue as well.

- 1 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Have a question here.
- 2 MR. RUPP: Thank you, when did this happen with the
- 3 tree cutting and leaving the tree in the yard?
- 4 MS. BABB: Maybe three or four years ago, and it's
- 5 still there.
- 6 MR. RUPP: So they cut the tree and they never came
- 7 back to --
- 8 MS. BABB: Not a tree, like a whole bunch of trees.
- 9 MR. RUPP: They just left them there?
- 10 MS. BABB: They left them there, they're still sitting
- 11 there.
- 12 MR. RUPP: Was that a subcontractor, did you see a
- 13 name on the truck or.
- 14 MS. BABB: I'm sure it was a subcontractor, I don't
- 15 know which one, no effort has been made to address these trees
- 16 in my yard, and they're still there, they're probably going to
- 17 be there until they physically deteriorate.
- 18 MR. RUPP: I would suggest you might want to give your
- 19 name and address to THE Office of Public Counsel or something,
- 20 maybe someone can look into that for you.
- MS. BABB: Sounds great.
- 22 MR. RUPP: Four years ago did you check with anybody
- 23 at the Public Service Commission about the policy for trimming
- 24 trees?
- 25 MS. BABB: No, I did not, I didn't even think about

- 1 doing something like that.
- 2 MR. RUPP: That would be a good thing to think about,
- 3 because we do have a customer outreach department, and I think
- 4 between the Office of Public Counsel and maybe talking to
- 5 Mr. Beck --
- 6 MS. BABB: Who's Mr. Beck, is he out there?
- 7 MR. RUPP: He's probably outside, but you can talk to
- 8 him too, and find out more about that.
- 9 MS. BABB: Okay, sounds great. Thank you.
- MR. RUPP: Thank you.
- 11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Just stop by the table right at the
- 12 entrance to the door, that's where staff is located.
- 13 MS. BABB: Okay, thank you for letting me talk.
- 14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Next name on the list is
- 15 Annette Rey. Good evening, and Rey is R-E-Y.
- 16 MS. REY: R-E-Y.
- 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right hand.
- 18 (Witness sworn)
- 19 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us?
- MS. REY: Well, everyone has spoken very
- 21 intelligently, the other people have come up with great ideas,
- 22 and I'm going to give you a profile of what it's like as an
- 23 individual to live in this day and age with all of those rate
- 24 increases.
- I'm going to be 68-years-old, I'm still working, and I

- 1 do not draw social security because it increases a certain
- 2 percentage every year up to the age 70, so I relying on the
- 3 money that I earn. I've been coming to these hearings for over
- 4 forty years, I haven't seen any changes in the favor of the
- 5 citizens.
- 6 Medicare has, I've only been on Medicare about two
- 7 years, and it has gone up \$300 a year, oh utilities are raising,
- 8 my trash bill, I have a senior rate, and it keeps creeping up, I
- 9 call them, ask them you know, whatever their excuses are, I'm
- 10 tired of hearing it from all these businesses. Medicare part D
- 11 which is for prescriptions has gone up \$192 a year, we're
- 12 talking almost \$500 in those two figures alone. And just a
- 13 rhetorical question, has UE ever been refused a rate increase?
- 14 I think -- also I appreciate being heard, but I think this is a
- 15 dance, I think this is a platform, it's a stage, and each of us
- 16 come up here and play a role, we speak to deaf ears. The end
- 17 result is always the same, you get the raise, I get the bill.
- 18 I'm keeping my house at 64 degrees, I just received my
- 19 last gas bill, I turn it down to 62, but I have electric, it's
- 20 an electric furnace, but power by gas but turned on by electric.
- 21 Now, I want you to picture this, I wear wool socks, my combat
- 22 boots and coat and a ski cap in my house every day to live,
- 23 that's how I function in my house, that's how I do my dishes, my
- 24 coat, sleeves are kind of sloppy if they get wet when I'm doing
- 25 the dishes, this is how I'm dressed.

1 I want to state that I'm not as bad off as so many of 2 the other people, I don't live in an inner city, I don't have roaches, I don't have all these things so many other people have 3 4 to deal with, and they're struggling to pay these bills. 5 very embarrassing to come up here and tell you these things because I'm very independent, I'm still working, I'm proud of 6 7 that. I don't pay medical doctors, I don't have any medical issues, praise God for that, but I was paying all this Medicare 8 9 and this part D for prescriptions, and I don't take an aspirin, 10 so I don't have drug bills. I have mercy on the people who are struggling to pay their medications, through all of their 11 struggles. 12 13 The electric bill increase they're talking about adds up to about \$100 a year, and we're paying, we're being insulted 14 15 because we're using less, and I'm using a lot less, I'm freezing 16 in my house, my kneecaps, I don't have anything to put on my kneecaps, so I'm using less and I'm going to be penalized. 17 18 reason is right out here, reduced revenues due to reduced demand, well, we're reducing our demand because we can't pay the 19 20 bill, you know, we have to look at our future for retirement. 21 I'm trying to put some money away, you keep taking it out of my 2.2 pocket. 23 I made a statement in 2009, I'm not going to read the 24 whole thing, I don't have time, but I'm going to read the end of 25 it, there increase enables the utility company to recoup from us

- 1 the victim customer moneys that we otherwise are attempting to
- 2 save by cutting back, so not only are we suffering through the
- 3 heat or cold by using less service, we are further insulted and
- 4 robbed by being forced to pay the utility money we would have
- 5 otherwise saved, and this was my comment in 2009. It's
- 6 appropriate today, you remind me of a teenager with no economic
- 7 sense and who feels a right and entitlement to what is in my
- 8 pocket, their youth is their excuse, what's yours, the end, any
- 9 questions?
- 10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Brian Yochim. Good
- 11 evening, spell your last name for the court reporter.
- 12 MR. NEWCOMB: Brian with an I and Yochim is
- 13 Y-O-C-H-I-M.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, please raise your right
- 15 hand.
- 16 (Witness sworn)
- 17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us?
- MR. YOCHIM: A lot of what I wanted to say has already
- 19 been said in this room, so I won't take up too much time. I
- 20 have three general points, I'm also against have a fixed fee for
- 21 everyone, it seems more fair if you have to raise something,
- 22 raise the usage fee, but don't impose a flat fee across everyone
- 23 who uses the electricity, that's just unfair to everybody.
- 24 Second point is a lot of people in the room already said it, I
- 25 wish Ameren would invest in more renewable energy and catch up

- 1 with the rest of the company using solar and wind power, but
- 2 that's already been said, I won't dwell on that anymore, but I
- 3 did want to point out I just moved here from Colorado, I had
- 4 solar panels on my roof, and it was a lot easier to do it in
- 5 that state, and you didn't have to be wealthy to have solar
- 6 panels, because you could lease them, so my wife and I put zero
- 7 money down and we paid a monthly fee for the solar panels that
- 8 was actually cheaper than our electric bill was were handle, I
- 9 wish Missouri would catch up and allow us to lease solar panels
- 10 on our roof, and I would hope Ameren would assist with that.
- 11 Thank you.
- 12 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions?
- 13 MR. STOLL: Who'd you lease these solar panels from,
- 14 from the utility or from a private company?
- 15 MR. YOCHIM: From Sungevity which was a solar company,
- 16 and the utility company permitted that.
- 17 MR. STOLL: And then when you moved here, what
- 18 happened to the lease payment, did it transfer to new property
- 19 owner?
- 20 MR. YOCHIM: Yeah.
- 21 MR. STOLL: So it was tied to the deed or something
- 22 like that on the house.
- MR. YOCHIM: Yes.
- MR. STOLL: Okay. Great, thank you.
- 25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Chloe Jackson. Hi,

good evening. And spell your first name. 2 MS. JACKSON: C-H-L-O-E. 3 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. And if you would please raise your right hand. (Witness sworn) 5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us? 6 7 MS. JACKSON: Thank you for seeing all of us tonight, it says renewables not rate hikes, but I'll leave it here while 8 9 I'm speaking. I am 22-years-old, I work at a local non-profit 10 and I do environmental work, I also recently graduated with a 11 degree in environmental studies. I also have been on the staff and have lived at a homeless shelter for the past 8 months, 12 we're a hospitality house, we do hospitality for homeless women 13 and children. We live in an old convent and as someone who is 14 15 concerned about the environment and our bills, we try to do what 16 we can do to preserve energy. Sometimes we can barely make our utility payments, and I'm really confused as why we and hundreds 17 18 of thousands of other people in the area lot of those folks in this room, are being punished with the even higher rates even 19 when we're doing what we can to conserve energy, while Ameren 20 CEO is making millions of dollars. Instead of rate hikes like 21 2.2 these, I think they need rates that reward consumers for their 23 energy conservation and not rates that put extra money into 24 Ameren's pockets. 25 Like I said before, I'm also concerned about the

environment. As I understand it, this \$206 million dollars 1 2 would pay for the cost of buying, burning and disposing of coal and the transmission energy cost. With all due respect to 3 anyone in the room with family members who have worked in coal mines or power plants, it is past time that Ameren invest in 5 renewable and clean energy. Ameren uses less than 1 percent 6 7 clean energy, one percent, while other utilities in the state as mentioned before are up to 30 percent, 36 percent wind and solar 8 9 and it's saving consumers lots of money. Again I'm echoing what other people have already said 10 but KC P and L in my home city of Kansas City estimated it's 11 investments in clean energy will save it's consumers \$1 billion 12 dollars over the next 20 years, which translates to \$1,700 per 13 customer. Springfield, Columbia and Kirkwood all found that 14 15 wind energy was 25 percent less than coal. I think Ameren has a 16 lot of rhetoric around hour they're environmentally responsible, and has for a few years, but I have yet to see any progressive 17 18 clear plan for investing in solar and wind from Ameren. way, whoever said it before from Ameren, natural gas is not 19 clean energy. Natural gas, I have seen the fracking sites in 20 21 the northeast and the east of this country and they are absolutely terrible for the environment, so I don't think that 2.2 23 should be considered a form of clean energy. I see a lot of 24 pollution from Ameren in communities like Labadie, I see 25 extremity high asthma rates in St. Louis and I see a company

- 1 that relies on coal for 70 percent of it's energy, coal that is
- 2 bought from Peabody which went bankrupt in April and doesn't
- 3 seem like a financially stable choice. And it's also just a
- 4 completely irresponsible company when it comes to the treatment
- 5 of it's workers and the land.
- 6 I'm also beginning to question Ameren, this is the
- 7 second time I'm standing up in front of the PSC on cases related
- 8 to Ameren, I was in northeast Missouri talking on behalf of
- 9 Neighbors United against Ameren's power line about the Mark
- 10 Twain transmission line last year. I personally don't want to
- 11 pay and I don't want my community to pay, and I don't want
- 12 anyone in this room to pay any longer for dirty energy and
- 13 fossil fuel infrastructure. I'd rather see more investment in
- 14 clean energy which others around the country have had
- 15 environmental and financial success with and rewards for rate
- 16 payers who do their part to protect the environment. Thank you
- 17 all.
- 18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Any questions? The next name on the
- 19 list is Terence Boyce. Good evening.
- MR. BOYCE: Good evening.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: You are Terence Boyce?
- MR. BOYCE: Yes.
- 23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Can you spell your name for the court
- 24 reporter?
- MR. BOYCE: T-E-R-E-N-C-E B-O-Y-C-E.

1	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right hand.
2	(Witness sworn)
3	JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us?
4	MR. BOYCE: Lord, where do we start? I've heard some
5	serious things but the one that hurt me the most is this lady
6	wearing a coat and a hat in her home to do her dishes. Does
7	your mom wear a coat to do her dishes? Does anyone mother wear
8	a coat to do her dishes? I mean, come on, that don't make any
9	sense. So I'm going to ask what Ameren be first to step across
10	that line to give something back to us as customers. CEO
11	salaries are out of control, I mean, all the money that's spent
12	like the one person said on commercials, can we take all that
13	money and you guys be the first to create a program that gives
14	something back to us as customers instead of penalizing. All
15	that money going to the CEO salary, I mean, I'm sorry, them
16	gentleman back there them officers, how much do they make a
17	year, but I guarantee if something pop off in here, you'll be
18	running straight for him, help me help me, he paying the same
19	bill we pay. First responders, come on they get shot, fireman
20	try to put out a fire, he got shot, so much crime so much
21	everything. He sitting up there making 6 what? What does he do
22	to earn that type of salary, what does he do, what papers does
23	he sign, what decisions does he make that warrants that he gets
24	paid I mean I know he got a degree or whatever, he went to
25	whatever school and got this piece of paper, but we all know

it's just a piece of paper, but what does he do to earn that 1 2 type of money in this woman's washing dishes in her coat. his mom isn't wearing one washing her dishes. I mean, that just 3 doesn't make any sense at all, you know, I'm sorry, like I said, 5 can Ameren be the first to create some sort of program that gives something back to us as the consumer because without us, 6 7 then you don't get paid, there's nothing, because if we didn't have electricity I, then of course we'd be candles whatever, you 8 9 know, to burn and give us our light and different things, our 10 heating, so without us, there's nothing. 11 So can Ameren be the first to cross to line, and create some sort of program that gives something back to us, 12 13 because if you give us something, we don't mind giving you something, we're asking for a hand, because all of these people 14 15 in this room, and I thought I was having a hard time struggling, 16 and I work by my butt off, I work hard, my bill right now, my electric bill just came in it's \$336, \$336 I won't complain 17 18 about it, because I know how to survive with nothing, trust me, I know how to survive with nothing, so I'm going to be fine. 19 But a lady that's in her home, come on, I can't let that go and 20 then the first responders they don't make no money, firemen they 21 don't make any money, can he get some of that salary that this 2.2 23 man is sitting in this office, I mean signing papers and playing 24 golf and taking meetings, can he get some of that salary for 25 getting shot at? Can a fireman who runs in that house to rescue

- 1 any one of our children, can he get some of that money? Can we
- 2 get some of that money, can someone help us? I mean, please,
- 3 you guys go back and say something to them at the top because
- 4 like the lady said, this is a song and dance. When we get done
- 5 and all this, we still getting this increase, no matter what you
- 6 say, no matter what you think, we're still getting this
- 7 increase. I got \$5 on it that we're still going to get this
- 8 increase, so like she said, this is just a song and dance.
- 9 She's been doing it for years, can we actually bring something
- 10 to the table where we feel good as consumers and say well Ameren
- 11 looked out for us first and gave us something. I mean, it's
- 12 heart wrenching I'm standing up here I'm like I want to say
- 13 something, and I was telling my girl, I'm going to come up here
- 14 and say something, and after listening to all this and thinking
- 15 I was having a hard time, I'm not having a hard time.
- 16 I'm listening to our seniors and you guys know, social
- 17 security, it's getting ready to happen, he going to slash their
- 18 money even more, a lot of them are going to become homeless,
- 19 have to move in with their kids, I mean, they're going to lose
- 20 their homes, can't afford to lose your home, you know. It's
- 21 getting ready to happen, but no one really cares the honest to
- 22 God truth is no one really cares, no one really cares because
- 23 it's not happening to you, so no one really cares. Thank you.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, sir. Next name is Doug
- 25 Munsch.

1	MR. MUNSCH: Evening.
2	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Spell your last name.
3	MR. MUNSCH: Last name is spelled M-U-N-S-C-H.
4	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right hand.
5	(Witness sworn)
6	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, what would you like to
7	tell us?
8	MR. MUNSCH: My name is Doug Munsch, I'm a project
9	developer for Straight Up Solar, solar contractor design build
10	based out of St. Louis, Missouri. I'll preface my comments with
11	my question earlier today which is if I look at a utility bill
12	now, I'll see about an \$8.00 fixed charge with the meter fee,
13	summer rates a little over 12 cents a kilowatt hour for the
14	first 800 kilowatt hours about 8 and a half cents and then for
15	every kilowatt hour over that in the winter is about 5.6.
16	The cost to buy energy is the realm in which
17	contractors in the HVAC world, solar, energy retrofits,
18	insulation operate in, we can develop our product, we can sell
19	it to homeowners, to businesses, we can establish calculations
20	for their rate of return based off of their existing energy
21	consumption and decrease in their energy consumption based off
22	the actual energy itself that they're buying. Any reformatting
23	of the way in which residents and business owners buy energy
24	from the utility that shifts that proportion amount of money
25	away from kilowatt hours to fixed charges, not only undermines

- 1 individuals incentives in using less energy, doing more with
- 2 less, but it also disrupts a business model that overall
- 3 benefits more contractors that operate within this \$5 million
- 4 dollar to \$25-million dollar range. So as a state, if we want
- 5 to encourage job growth we need to demonstrate policies that
- 6 allow the companies to grow from the \$1 million to the \$5
- 7 million level and the \$5 million to \$25 million dollar level.
- 8 If we institute rate changes as Ameren has proposed to the fixed
- 9 charges, we are allowing them to strengthen their resolve as a
- 10 monopoly and discourage private investment in the growth of
- 11 smaller scale jobs. We disincentify individuals to develop more
- 12 skill sets required to operate with these contractors that
- 13 operate at smaller revenues but still demonstrate an ability to
- 14 hire more people out of college, encourage more people to go
- 15 back to school again.
- 16 And so, as a contractor operates in this world of
- 17 kilowatt hours, I ask the counsel to reject Ameren's decision to
- 18 shift disproportionally the rate increase to the fixed charges.
- 19 Any questions?
- 20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you for your testimony. Next
- 21 name on the list is Janet Knoll? Anyone, okay. Curtis Couring?
- 22 Joy Hardenbrook, or is it Jay Hardenbrook?
- MR. HARDENBROOK: Yeah.
- JUDGE WOODRUFF: Sometimes a little hard to decipher
- 25 the writing here.

1 MR. HARDENBROOK: Apologize for the penmanship. JUDGE WOODRUFF: That's okay, spell your name for the 2 3 court reporter. 4 MR. HARDENBROOK: Jay J-A-Y Hardenbrook H-A-R-D-E-N-B-R-O-O-K. 5 6 (Witness sworn) 7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. What would you like to tell us? 8 9 MR. HARDENBROOK: Thank you Judge and commissioners 10 again for having all of these public hearings, most importantly 11 we want to thank you for the amount of public hearings that you've had on this particular rate case, we definitely 12 appreciate how much you all to travel to hit 13 different public 13 hearings in this particular case. 14 15 I'm going to repeat some of the things that people 16 said here tonight but for different reasons. Fixed costs hit residential customers much, much harder than business customers. 17 18 So the individual person, especially low income members that we have, if they're looking at a fixed charge on their bill, as a 19 20 percentage of their overall bill that is going to hit them 21 harder than other people, so it's something that we're very, 2.2 very concerned about when we see that coming up in any sort of 23 rate case. You know the Noranda thing has been tossed around 24 back and forth, certainly in my years working on various utility 25 issues, we got to see Noranda and Ameren fighting back and forth

- 1 over issues for several years, and I remember when those fights
- 2 were going on, Ameren said over and over again, you all are
- 3 paying the costs of Noranda having this special rate, and so
- 4 then we have to push costs onto all the other consumers. Now
- 5 that Noranda has left, well now that Noranda is leaving, we have
- 6 to push more costs onto the average consumer, so it seems like
- 7 the residential customers lose no matter what happens, if they
- 8 come on, if they go off.
- 9 I actually was just in Jefferson City today, no
- 10 surprise to the former senators in the room, but there was a
- 11 public hearing today on another bill for the general assembly to
- 12 go outside of the rate making structure and for them to increase
- 13 rates again. So if Ameren doesn't get it through the Public
- 14 Service Commission, they go the general assembly, and they try
- 15 to get raises that way, and so they're asking for an increase in
- 16 their profits here and they're asking for an increase of their
- 17 profits in Jefferson City at the exact same time. So it's
- 18 incredibly disheartening to us, certainly, seven rate cases in
- 19 ten years is a problem, and that it continues to go up, while
- 20 our members, especially on fixed income, don't see those
- 21 increases year after year. So thank you again so much for your
- 22 time, thank you for doing these public hearings, and thank you
- 23 for listening to all these people here in South County.
- 24 MS. COLEMAN: Mr. Hardenbrook, what's that bill
- 25 number?

1 MR. HARDENBROOK: Oh, Senate Bill 190. 2 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. JUDGE WOODRUFF: And Mr. Hardenbrook, you are 3 4 representing AARP? 5 MR. HARDENBROOK: I am. JUDGE WOODRUFF: What's your position with AARP? 6 7 MR. HARDENBROOK: I'm the advocacy director. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you for your testimony. 8 9 Ludwick. Christine Burns. Good evening. 10 MS. BURNS: Hi, it's Christine with a C and Burns B-U-R-N-S. 11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, let me swear you in 12 first. 13 14 (Witness sworn) 15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us? 16 MS. BURNS: Several things, I wanted to say that I was so proud when I came into this room because all my friends that 17 18 didn't show up tonight and relatives who because they're working a second job said you're probably going to be by yourself, are 19 you going to be okay, and I said well, yeah, I think I will, and 20 21 so I was proud of everybody. You have to understand when you talk about Ameren and 22 23 utilities others and gasoline and all that the face of the poor 24 person is changing, you'd be surprised, but I'm very poor, you 25 know, my coat is ten years old, a girlfriend bought me shoes, my

husband works hard at his work. I baby-sit our three 1 2 grandchildren, so finances and the economy if you read it in our Post, paper if you want to call it that, is great, no, it's not. 3 And I couldn't believe it, that all these people prior to me speaking said that each time they get the rate increased, and I 5 said when I had the answered question part, what did I do when 6 7 we started losing money, we cut cable, we have old cars and we only have collision. We're doing everything we possibly can 8 9 including these LED light bulbs and ridiculous stuff like that 10 and then they're going to go ahead and turn the rate up. I'm not as bad off as this lady with the coat but I 11 keep the heat at bedtime at 68 and I keep it at 70 unless my 12 13 grand kids are there because they have coats on sometimes, so I have to turn it up to 72, so I'm not woo hoo having a ball here 14 15 using that heat. They have a question in the paper commentator 16 said big restaurants aren't doing, well yeah, you know, I just don't think anybody's really listening to the people, we're 17 18 hurting. And I don't know who has a magic answer but it has to start with somebody somewhere that cares for us the people. 19 This is our government, this is our utility and we don't have 20 any say, you just go ahead and raise it every couple of years, 21 and the water company and all that. People are getting tired of 2.2 23 this, they're getting tired of this and they're get disgusted, 24 and like I said, the face of the poor people is changing 25 drastically, and I think you folks that are listening need to

hear this when you heard this today. 2 It's really getting bad in the last five years or so, 3 and now gasoline is going to go up again, and on and on and on, 4 and so I don't know what to tell you. I will be, since this is my first time here, I will be looking on-line, I want to see 5 what all of you decide, and then I'd like to look at you in your 6 7 face after you make that decision whoever those two people are, 8 if you give that raise, you want to come to my house, you want 9 to bring in a coat for that lady? What are you going to do, 10 when is someone going to start doing the right thing, the right thing for the people. It's not just old people, it's middle 11 class people that are going, the water -- the well is running 12 dry, there's just not that many people. We need to hear, we 13 need to have people fight for us. I want to see what your 14 15 comments are, I will be watching. I'm not doing anything silly, 16 but I'm just saying that I want to see, and I've seen you, and I'll remember you when I'm reading those comments. After you've 17 18 heard everybody, everybody says this, how can you increase that rate and go home at night in good conscience and look in that 19 mirror? I hope to God, I hope that's not wrong to say, that 20 21 you'll be correct in making the right decision. shareholders like somebody else said, too bad, I wish I had 2.2 23 stock to worry about whether or not it's going down. Thank you 24 very much. 25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anyone have any questions?

1 MR. STOLL: I might mention just for everybody if you would like to watch these hearings you can watch them on the 2 Internet, you can go to -- they begin the last Monday in 3 4 February, and they run for like two and a half weeks on our 5 schedule, they begin every morning at 8:30, and you can get to the website by going to and you can get this from somebody at 6 our desk outside, to PSC.MO.GOV, so PSC.MO.GOV and there's a 7 little window there and it will say something about clicking 8 9 here for a public hearing. It's so simple, even I can do it, 10 and so you click that on and you can actually, it will say if the hearing is in session, and you can watch it, because what we 11 do there is not frivolous and we take everything very seriously, 12 and I think you would see it if you would tune in to do that. 13 And also I'll mention while I'm saying this, is that 14 15 these public hearings are important, if they weren't important, 16 we wouldn't be doing them, we do fourteen of them in the Ameren case, and we do many public hearings for each utility that 17 18 brings a rate case to us. So what you're saying here, what the lady has in the box, all those things are very important in 19 helping us to reach our decision, thank you. 20 21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Next name on the list is Margaret Good evening. Could you spell your last name? 2.2 Lange. 23 MS. LANG: L-A-N-G-E. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. Please raise your right 24 25 hand.

1	(Witness sworn)
2	JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us?
3	MS. LANGE: There's a bigger picture that I wish
4	people would look at in the longer term picture, and it's not
5	just the middle class which is true, which is disappearing, we
6	all know how we struggle, but the environment is crashing.
7	We're going to have more flooding, more massive storms, and more
8	sink holes, more polluted ground water, more problems with this
9	dirty old energy that is more you know, How Green Was My Valley,
10	that's a movie that you guys should all see, and it's a book,
11	it's about whales and they removed all the coal from the
12	hillsides and that mountain was decimated, their lives just
13	became filthy and broken and diseased, and all 18 whatever, 1890
14	or whenever it took place, this is 2017, Missouri will continue
15	to suffer from those downpour sinks holes and floods and in
16	future the displaced costal Americans will want to move to
17	relatively higher and dryer places like St. Louis, until they
18	realize the costs of very polluted unhealthy air and water.
19	I first started to notice breathing difficulties after
20	moving here for a job in 1990, and I began riding the Katie
21	Trail every weekend, all summer for several years and I would
22	ride it for 50 miles I'd look across Missouri River I'd see the
23	Labadie smokestack. I thought I was doing myself a great favor,
24	my heart, cardiovascular system, oh, it's great I'm doing all
25	this. I can I'm getting stronger, I'm getting healthy. Next
I	

- 1 thing you know, I have exercise asthma.
- 2 The plumes the fumes, I was breathing in intensely as
- 3 I was peddling my bike up and down the Katie Trail harming
- 4 myself instead of doing good for myself. Now I must use, now
- 5 it's chronic, I've had many episodes where I've nearly died, now
- 6 must use inhaled corticosteroids which are extremely expensive,
- 7 thousands of dollars per inhaler, this is just a rescue inhaler,
- 8 I'm talking about the corticosteroids, this is expensive too.
- 9 Use of corticosteroids reduce the natural immune response of
- 10 your body. Hence, I fight respiratory infections every fall
- 11 through spring. During cold and flu season I usually pick up
- 12 many viruses despite extremely careful handwashing. I expect a
- 13 shortened life span due to asthma, caused be dismal air quality
- 14 of this region. It's extremely dirty air has caused and
- 15 continues to trigger my asthma.
- 16 I intend to abandon St. Louis for health reasons
- 17 despite years of hard work building a life here, beautifying my
- 18 neighbor with gardens, and devotion to making life better and
- 19 cleaner, with now seems all for nothing. In 2008 I worked long
- 20 hours to get the 20 by 20, 2020 renewable energy standards on
- 21 the ballot and it passed and Ameren found a way to get around
- 22 it. I despair of the regressiveness of Missouri politics, and
- 23 of our governments hostility to the public.
- To the contrary, economic benefits of clean energy
- 25 outweigh the real costs of coal fired energy. Clean energy is

- 1 better and cheaper for public health, FEMA, Departments of
- 2 Education, agriculture, and HHS, for example, the Zika virus
- 3 which is due to global warming, and it's a tough national
- 4 security concern for the defense department. Children with
- 5 behavioral and cognitive deficits who miss school for
- 6 hospitalizations for asthma, and toxin induced diseases, like
- 7 cancer from mercury coming through the ground water, which is
- 8 part of your coal lash, and it costs our economy far more than
- 9 prevention through safeguarding, our environment does.
- 10 Financially rush felt states like Missouri would be
- 11 wise to move to clean energy because states are pitted against
- 12 each other for businesses. The state dedicated to clean energy
- 13 are winning, people like Google, Amazon, Microsoft et cetera are
- 14 needing to locate and are choosing to move to states in
- 15 accordance with our company's mission statements that are
- 16 focused on clean energy standards. Warren Buffet who owns
- 17 Mid-American Corporation as 45 percent sustainable clean
- 18 renewable energy goals. Iowa is adding 2000 megawatt wind and
- 19 new transmission lines and has attracted new businesses due to
- 20 this. Wind and clean energy is cheaper. Old coal plants are
- 21 like keeping a 15 to 20-year-old car because it is paid for
- 22 running, by putting on new tires and brakes. But it is not as
- 23 cheap as anyone thinks. Anyone who has driven behind an old
- 24 clunker only to start coughing, knows that. Just because the
- 25 old dirty coal plants are fully paid for doesn't make them

- 1 cheaper than building new clean energy plants and transmission
- 2 lines.
- The reason the rates are high is because of the cost
- 4 to update old technology and the real costs of coal and fossil
- 5 fuel environmental disasters, social stability that's decreasing
- 6 increased health care cost, increased social incest, increased
- 7 crime, it's all related, even if you are in compliance with
- 8 federal clean air standard or permits, which I think you are
- 9 not, the cost is not as efficient as wind, wind is guaranteed to
- 10 be more cost effective.
- 11 Instead Missouri has chosen to engage in a race in
- 12 more ways than just the Right to Work, we are pro degradation of
- 13 our natural resources in favor of a quick buck for short-term
- 14 shareholders and we will have no federal protection from
- 15 Missouri's retrograde and legislation, especially now that EPA
- 16 is under attack from the top. Lack of environmental standards
- 17 will drive out the millennials who have bravely put down stakes
- 18 in St. Louis City. The St. Louis Post Dispatch --
- 19 (Unable to type)
- 20 I'll skip this part about the millennials wanting to
- 21 move to the city, but they're fighting solely on their own to
- 22 have any progress with their maker mentality, their start ups
- 23 and stuff, because they're the new thinking and we're stuck in
- 24 the old unhealthy thinkings and the unhealthy lifestyles, and
- 25 people that can't have their windows open or don't want to have

- 1 their windows open. You can't have your windows open in summer,
- 2 I've tried.
- 3 Personally, I would love to live, I'd love to stay
- 4 here and age in place, walking to shops, and cafes that are
- 5 easily accessible and friendly and sustainable communities are
- 6 the future, but I cannot walk to places that I must drive when
- 7 humid air induces my asthma. There are fewer greener air days
- 8 and many more orange and red air days. I must arrange my life
- 9 according to levels of carbon monoxide. Recently I had an
- 10 accident with a garden tool that nearly killed me because of the
- 11 heat. A pitchfork I was using turn to the soil grazed my ankle
- 12 and punctured my distal achilles artery. I barely made it to
- 13 the house, spurting arterial blood to call for an ambulance.
- 14 This probably would have been prevented with better more oxygen
- 15 rich outdoor air enabling me to think more clearly as I worked.
- 16 I can't tell you how many times I've nearly fainted outdoors
- 17 working in my garden. My health is seriously and adversely
- 18 affected from one breath to the next, and as a nonsmoker, this
- 19 seems unfair.
- 20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You are past your time, if you'd like
- 21 to wrap up.
- 22 MS. LANGE: We could use federal tax credits to bill
- 23 clean power and it would be cheaper. I can't tell you if you
- 24 were to use, and believe me, I'm on a fixed income, and I don't
- 25 have money, just enough to get by, but if I could use, if you

- would use your funds Ameren, if you could get Ameren to use it's 1 funds on switching to sustainable energy instead of retrofitting 2 and fixing and trying to put new mufflers and brakes and tires 3 4 on obsolete old dirty fossil fuel that's killing us and this is 5 a small planet. JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, ma'am, any questions? 6 7 MR. STOLL: No, thank you for your testimony. JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right, Miss Lange was the last 8 9 person that signed up to testify, is there anyone else in the 10 room that would like to come forward and testify at this point. 11 Yes, sir. And your name, sir? MR. PROST: Tom Prost P-R-O-S-T. 12 13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Let me swear you in first 14 (Witness sworn) 15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell us? 16 MR. PROST: It's been a long night, I'm not going to rehash a lot of valid points that people have made. 17
- 19 small business owner, one of our greatest expenses is health
- 20 care insurance. The use of coal I think I would hope everybody

partner in a small engineering and surveying company. As a

- 21 agrees, is very harmful and causes much increase in illnesses.
- 22 I know you can't answer questions tonight, but I would like
- 23 somewhere along the line to see if Ameren agrees with the
- 24 statements that other cities such as Springfield, Columbia and
- 25 Kirkwood have found that wind power costs 25 percent less than

18

coal energy, and if they do agree with this, or even if it's 1 slightly less than that figure, why they don't rely more on wind 2 3 power. I'd like to address Commissioner Stoll, I quess it was 4 5 your comment about that these hearings are important. When you said that, I had a flashback to Eric Progman (phonetic) with the 6 7 NFL that said if they didn't hold the public hearings about the Rams, they wouldn't be doing it. You can say what you want, 8 9 let's see some actions that show these hearings really mean 10 something. Finally, Missouri governor and legislature say they 11 want to be pro-business, allowing Ameren to raise rates and 12 continue in it's great reliance on coal is not a probusiness 13 policy, at least not for small businesses. Thank you. 14 15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you, any questions? Anyone 16 else wish to testify? I don't see any other hands going out, thank you all for coming, and we are adjourned. 17 18 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 8:41 p.m.) 19 20 21 2.2 23 2.4 25

1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	I, ANGIE R. KELLY, an Illinois Certified Shorthand
3	Reporter (IL CSR# 084-004498) and Missouri Certified Court
4	Reporter (MO CCR# 1010) do hereby certify that the witness
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7	witness was taken by me to the best of my ability, and
8	thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that
9	I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any
10	of the parties to the action in which this deposition was
11	taken; and further, that I am not a relative or employee of
12	any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto; nor
13	financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this
14	action.
15	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
16	seal this 27th day of January, 2017.
17	
18	Danie Drille
19	angu R. Kelly
20	
21	Notary Public
22	
23	
24	
25	

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