

September 7, 2012

Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street, PO Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Re: Cases: EW-2013-0045, GW-2013-0046, WW-2013-0047

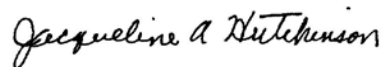
Commissioners:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Missouri Consumers Council, we commend the Commission for opening working dockets to explore low-income rates and other the possibilities of helping venerable customers. Consumers Council has reviewed the testimony of AARP, LSEM, and CAASTLC and concur with the comments contained within.

The above mentioned organizations have outline the economic conditions that exist in our state, and provided examples of rate designs and programs that have been implemented in other states. CCM board members believe that protecting the health and safety of low-income customers is not only a benefit to that individual or family, but it also benefits the community, and could potentially have cost benefits to the all rate payers through reduced collection cost and reduced bad debt.

We look forward to the Commission convening a workgroup that would take a closer look at the many affordability and rate reduction programs that have been implemented in 22 states over the past 20 years. We hope that this process will result in the Commission adopting a comprehensive solution, that coordinates with existing public and private assistance and efficiency programs and moves Missouri to rate affordability for all utility customers.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Hutchinson,
Board Member, Consumers Council of Missouri