

Exhibit No. 2

Commission – Exhibit 2
Reverend Click Letter
Local Public Hearing Exhibit-St. Louis
File No. ER-2024-0319

Public Hearings on the Ameren Rate Case

January 21, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

I am the Rev. Barbara Click, Deacon and Manager of the Trinity Food Ministry, one of the largest church food ministries in the St. Louis area. We served over 2500 families in 2024.

The majority of people we serve are what we oddly call “the working poor”; meaning, they work but at wages so low that they remain at or under the poverty rate. Many of our community members live on fixed wages.

Many families live in houses which are in need of many repairs. I personally know a great many people who suffer through high humidity and high temperatures with their air conditioning shut off because they cannot afford the current usage rate. To increase that rate to above 15% would be even more onerous.

People come to the pantry for food because too often, they must make a choice between food and rent or food and utilities. I know others who have had their electricity cut off for non-payment. Imagine them now in this deadly weather. In 2023, the poverty rate in St. Louis City was 19.8, 1.5 times the poverty rate in the State of Missouri which was 12%.

No one likes price hikes; however, it is not a matter of liking or disliking with that 19.8+ percent. It is a matter of being able to maintain those basic human needs that keep us alive and striving.

The bottom line should not be at the expense of those considered “the least of these.”

Sincerely and in great compassion,

The Rev. Dcn. Barbara Click