

From: [Bradley Tefft](#)
To: [Statements](#)
Subject: Statement of Position Submitted by Bradley Tefft
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Statement of Position Submitted

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Docket

E-2, Sub 1219

Message

I oppose the rate hike proposed by DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS. Under DEP's proposal, customer bills could increase as much as 14.3%!!! Duke wants users to pay for expanding their climate-wrecking fracked gas operations including the new Asheville gas plant, for their coal ash negligence (including a profit!) and for the completely unnecessary "grid improvement" projects that serve only to boost Duke profits. Fracked Gas Expansion: Duke is seeking to recover the cost of building a natural gas-fired power plant at its Lake Julian facility near Asheville, along with an approximately 10% profit. Many of us citizens fought against this plant in 2016. Unfortunately, it was approved and is now operating. But it's still a terrible idea that Duke customers should not have to pay for. Coal Ash Negligence: Duke's insurers refuse to cover coal ash liabilities because, for years, Duke failed to take reasonable measures to avoid or mitigate damages from coal ash disposal. Coal ash costs could total \$10 billion over time. In addition to seeking reimbursement of actual expenses, Duke wants ratepayers to provide a 10 percent mark-up (more or less "profit") for its corporate negligence. Attorney General Josh Stein agrees with citizens that Duke Energy shareholders, not customers, should bear the cost of coal ash negligence; his appeal in a previous Duke rate case is awaiting a decision by the NC Supreme Court. Grid Boondoggle: For three years, Duke Energy has tried to get legislators and regulators to approve a deceptive scheme to supposedly "modernize" its transmission grid: power lines and equipment. (The latest failed attempt was last year's "ratepayer rip-off bill.") This is part of a national utility effort to put billions into electricity rates. Duke wants to spend at least \$13 billion in the Carolinas. Duke is proposing what appears to be another backdoor approach to spend billions on unneeded grid projects. The proposal remains vague, but Duke once again claims it wants to prepare the grid for a future of distributed renewable energy (at homes, buildings, parking areas, etc.). However, Duke's own 15-year plan shows that the corporation does not plan to increase renewables beyond 8 percent of its total generation in the Carolinas (which is less than the current national average). National evidence shows that most of the grid work Duke proposes wouldn't help get us to a distributed energy future anyway. Instead, Duke is proposing high-dollar projects that raise

rates but aren't needed (such as under-grounding power lines). Largely, that's because advances in renewables, paired with battery storage, are set to leap-frog all that grid expense, and it's a faster, cheaper and better way to get to a distributed and more resilient energy system. We should be equipping buildings and homes with solar+storage instead of pouring billions into an electricity grid system that's moving toward obsolescence. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING for the citizens of North Carolina and REJECT the proposed rate hike!