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WLABPublic: Affordability Metrics

JR Windsor <jimwindsor520@gmail.com>

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To: wlabpublic@como.gov

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To Members of the W&L Board,

There is a complex mix of utility providers and residential options within Columbia. Boone Electric serves a significant number of customers within the Columbia city limits. Water districts provide service to some Columbia citizens. There are around 1,000 "master meters" on the Columbia water system where the landlord pays the water bill for rental properties ranging from large apartment complexes to older homes that were converted into multiple rental units.

This is in addition to the complexity of defining low-income...the truly needy student, the person working two jobs with a income just above an arbitrary limit....the criteria would take months (or longer) to develop and the bureaucracy would be challenging.

I submit that approach would be a waste of time and money. I would encourage the W&L Board to become familiar with the data that already is available within Columbia and to reexamine what it means to be a "public utility" and the range of **opinions** on how rate design should be approached.

I would also remind the Board that when a range of data has a minimum value (zero usage or the minimum base charge) there are basic statistical **facts** related to that data. The **fact** is that average (mean) is always higher than median (50% point). When rates are changed that impact low usage, the median value should be used to determine the impact on customers, not average.

I have attached two documents to this message. One is a memo from the senior rate analyst in the Utility Department and provides an example of the type of data that can be routinely provided to the Board. The other is a paper from Public Power Magazine that illustrates the range of **opinion** on considerations for electric rate design.

I encourage the Board to examine both documents and engage citizens in a discussion of what metrics already exist to provide affordable rates to customers.

Thank you,
Jim Windsor

2 attachments



Leadership-in-Rate-Design.pdf
2991K



Memo - Low-Income Distribution.docx
466K