

Dear Ms Howland,

It has come to my attention that a cost increase on our electricity bills will soon be implemented to cover a proposed increase in the System Benefits Charge, intended to help subsidize funding for increased efficiency in electrical power use. While well-intended, this cost increase could not come at a more challenging time considering our already high electricity costs and all the economic challenges consumers and businesses are facing from the Coronavirus epidemic. In addition, some of us, like me, are retired, on fixed incomes, and are already facing additional costs from things like real estate tax increases which, in my case, have just increased by 25%.

So again, although well-intended, increasing our SBC charge now should be reconsidered, and at least delayed until our economy has recovered from the losses from the Coronavirus. In addition, reviewing again why our rates are already so high when compared to all the other states may turn up some better methods to reduce our electricity usage, efficiency, and costs rather than just asking us ratepayers to pay more.

Thank you for considering this,

Joe Wilkas
Bridgewater, NH