

Dear Mr. Herrera,

Here are some issues I would like to have considered in the Austin Energy Rate review case on behalf of our Church, Anderson Mill Baptist Church, 10633 Lake Creek Parkway, Austin, TX 78750

Anderson Mill Baptist Church serves the far northwest portion of Austin in District 6. We have been here for 40 years and believe our presence here continues to make a difference in the lives we are called to serve.

- 1) House of Worship (HOW) customers are grateful for the discount which Austin Energy currently extends to us. Eliminating this discount would penalize HOW customers which do not share the peak periods other commercial accounts may experience. Our peak times are typically Sundays. While commercial customers are encouraged to avoid large usage during peak times throughout the week, HOW customers peak during lower usage times on Sunday. Basing commercial rates on peak times are intended as an incentive to get commercial users to cut down their use when the system is strained, so this has little real application for the HOW customers or other times when the system in general is not near maximum capacity. This elimination would serve as a financial disadvantage for us and other HOW customers without providing the peak relief the utility is seeking. The current discount is an equitable way of treating HOW customers.
- 2) Many HOW customers are paying the higher commercial rates on other buildings not on the same meter as their worship center. Even this reduction on worship centers is a blessing to the ongoing ministries of our HOW.
- 3) HOW customers use their monies to provide services for their community. Anderson Mill Baptist Church offers a free food pantry, financial assistance, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and other support ministries to those who struggle assimilating into the Austin community. Though Austin Energy will add to their revenues by eliminating the HOW discount, money going to Austin Energy will very possibly be subtracted from funds the HOW can use to provide critical public and social services. I believe that our community would be better served if the funds stayed at the local level through the social programs of HOW and thus partner with the support of city programs and services close to where the need is.
- 5) Many HOW in Austin are smaller churches (about 75-100 members). They only meet on Sunday and eliminating this discount would hurt these congregations the most.

We hope that you will keep the discount or modify the rate structure to give HOW the resources to maintain their current level of community impact.

Sincerely,

Al Magness
Administrator
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Austin, TX 78750
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