

RESOLUTION NO. CO.R-02-24-003
RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE VERIFIED PETITION OF
SOUTHERN INDIANA GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A CENTERPOINT
ENERGY INDIANA SOUTH ("CEI SOUTH") FOR RATE CHANGES BEFORE THE
INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (IURC), CAUSE NUMBER 45990

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County, Indiana recognizes the costs Vanderburgh County residents pay for electricity and natural gas;

WHEREAS, CEI South has filed a petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission that would raise monthly electric rates for a typical residential customer by about Ten Dollars in late 2024, nearly Six Dollars in early 2025, and by more than Twelve Dollars in early 2026;

WHEREAS, one major factor affecting businesses and residents when deciding on location or expansion is utility costs;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County, Indiana seeks to foster growth and development by providing the most competitive business and regulatory climate in order to reduce costs and expenses on its citizens and businesses;

WHEREAS, excessive and burdensome utility costs could threaten the growth and expansion of Vanderburgh County by adding burdens and impediments to new residents looking to relocate to Vanderburgh County, hinders business expansion by adding uncompetitive rates on local business and might deter new businesses from locating in Vanderburgh County;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County, Indiana has heard from many constituents and businesses opposing the requested rate increases;

WHEREAS, CEI South's rates and taxes already rank the highest in the state since 2008 and among the highest in the region and this increase will only further the disparity between utility rates in Vanderburgh County and other nearby regions that might be competing for the same residents and businesses;

WHEREAS, the average customer will see their monthly electric bills increase of \$47.24 (30.7%) by 2026 while 22% of CEI South customers who are electric heating customers (Rate EH), who will see their average monthly bill increase by \$63.33 by 2026;

WHEREAS, CEI South also requests a 114% increase of the monthly fixed charge of \$23.20 before you even use any electricity disproportionately impacting low- and fixed-income households (seniors, people with disabilities, homes with children and other vulnerable populations), while penalizing households that conserve energy and make their homes more efficient;

WHEREAS, CEI South and their predecessors spent over Five Hundred Million Dollars in pollution control equipment for aging coal fired power plants, but then retired

many of them before recovering these costs leading to this filing requesting the ratepayers of Vanderburgh County to cover CEI South's business decisions while still ensuring a profit;

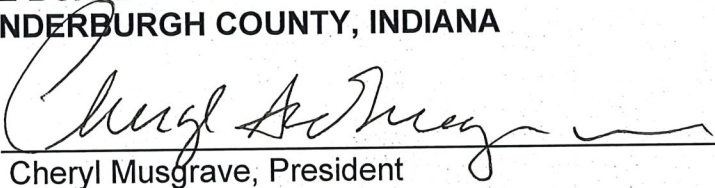
WHEREAS, CenterPoint has had the highest authorized return on equity, or profit margin, for its shareholders, for many years. In this case, CenterPoint Electric is proposing to keep its 10.40% return on equity. In contrast, Indiana's other four investor-owned electric utilities have an authorized return on equity below 10%; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County, Indiana respectfully requests the Indiana General Assembly to waive sales tax on utility payments to provide some relief for its citizens and businesses. Just as food is exempt from sales tax, so should sales tax on utilities as they are also fundamental to sustain human life.

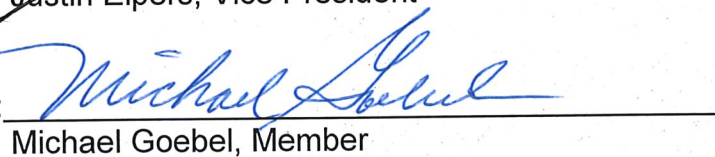
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County, Indiana hereby opposes CEI South's request as proposed.

So adopted this 20th day of February, 2024.


**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
VANDERBURGH COUNTY, INDIANA**

By: 
Cheryl Musgrave, President

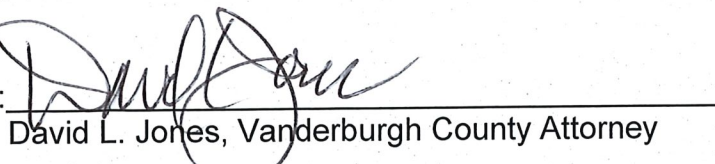
By: 
Justin Elpers, Vice President

By: 
Michael Goebel, Member

ATTEST:

By: 
Brian A. Gerth, Vanderburgh County Auditor

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

By: 
David L. Jones, Vanderburgh County Attorney