

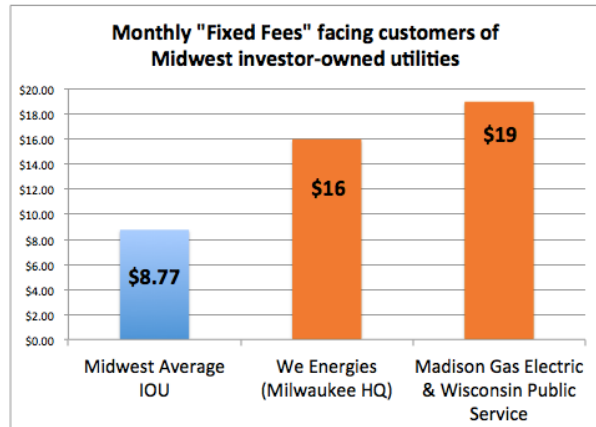
Wisconsin Advocates for Fair Utilities Welcome MARC Attendees

Dear Mid-America Regulatory Conference Annual Meeting Attendees,

Welcome to Wisconsin! We hope you have a great and thoroughly enjoyable event.

*Please enjoy Wisconsin's sights, beer, and cheese
But don't take home our high fixed fees!*

You see, Governor Walker's appointees to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW), Phil Montgomery and Ellen Nowak, led the charge in 2014 directing Wisconsin utilities to hike the monthly "fixed fees" that customers have to pay.



Despite unprecedented public outcry – thousands of public comments, dozens of businesses and local governments opposed, and hundreds of people at public hearings - Wisconsin's Commission enacted the highest fixed fees for any regulated utilities in the Midwest. The majority of Wisconsin electric customers now face electric connection fees of \$16 to \$19 each month before they even turn on a light, more than double the Midwest average of \$8.77.

Here's the real problem: high fixed fees hurt real people. They hurt seniors on fixed incomes. They hurt students in apartments. They hurt small businesses trying to meet payroll. They hurt low-income citizens and their families. They dampen the incentive to conserve energy and reduce customer ability to control energy costs.

Commissioners in other states have rejected higher fixed fees for just these reasons. In Minnesota, Xcel proposed to raise fees from \$8.00 to \$9.50 a month. In Missouri, Ameren proposed raising fixed fees from \$8.00 to \$12.00 per month. In Illinois, Peoples Gas attempted to raise natural gas fixed fees. In each of these cases the regulators denied the hikes and protected consumers, businesses and the environment. **Wisconsin's Commission stands alone in accepting these hikes.**

It's a sad turn-of-events for Wisconsin that, under Governor Walker, the state that pioneered the idea of a Public Service Commission to regulate monopoly utilities now has a Commission that guarantees monopoly power and profits while ignoring the negative impacts on customers. And Wisconsin utilities aren't done! Xcel's Wisconsin subsidiary and Wisconsin Public Service in Green Bay are asking for more in 2015: \$18 and \$25 respectively in fixed fees.

In closing, enjoy yourselves in Milwaukee. And we hope you take home some great souvenirs! But the idea to hike up fixed fees that hurt customers is one souvenir you should definitely leave behind.



Alliance for Fair Utilities

A coalition of faith, health, justice, low income, and environmental groups aimed at protecting Wisconsin customers from high fixed fees.

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