



Dr. Russell Plaschka
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6/13/2025

Evergy
Attn: Regulatory Affairs
818 South Kansas Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612
Subject: Opposition to Proposed 12% Rate Increase on Commercial/Industrial Customers

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council's farmer owned cooperative members, I am writing to express strong opposition to Evergy's proposed 12% rate increase on commercial and industrial customers. This increase would impose a disproportionate and harmful burden on Kansas's farmer cooperatives, many of which are already under significant financial strain.

Our members are grappling with historically low commodity prices, high input costs, and unstable export markets due to ongoing trade disruptions and tariffs. These challenges have squeezed margins to the point where even modest cost increases can have severe consequences. A 12% rise in electricity rates is not modest—it is unsustainable.

The proposed rate increase would have a direct impact on our farmer cooperatives by raising their yearly utility expenses by as much as \$90,000 in some cases. These are real dollars that would otherwise be reinvested into operations, employee wages, infrastructure improvements, and community services. Instead, these added costs will force difficult decisions, including reduced services, delayed maintenance, or even workforce reductions.

Electricity is a fundamental input in our operations, powering grain elevators, feed mills, and other essential infrastructure. As farmer owned cooperatives, we strive to be efficient and cost-conscious, and in most areas of our business we are able to "shop around" for competitive prices. Unfortunately, when it comes to electricity, we are captive consumers. There is no viable alternative provider. This lack of choice places us in a uniquely vulnerable position and magnifies the impact of any rate increase.



We believe that Evergy has a responsibility to weigh the economic realities faced by rural businesses and agricultural producers. This proposed increase risks further destabilizing our rural economies and undermining the long-term viability of essential local services and food production systems.

We respectfully urge Evergy and the Kansas Corporation Commission to reconsider this rate proposal and work toward a more balanced, sustainable approach that supports—not punishes—those who feed and fuel our communities.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Plaschka", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Dr. Russell Plaschka
President Kansas Cooperative Council