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60 Plus Association Urges Oklahoma Officials to Protect Seniors Through Self-Supply Policy

Group calls on Attorney General Drummond and the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to require the state's largest new electricity users to bring or finance the power infrastructure they need

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The 60 Plus Association, also known as the American Association of Senior Citizens, sent a letter to Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond and the members of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission urging them to adopt a self-supply policy for the state's largest new electricity users.

Under self-supply, which is also known as “bring your own new generation,” large new industrial customers would provide or finance the additional electricity generation and related infrastructure their operations require. The policy would allow Oklahoma to continue attracting major investments while protecting seniors, families, and existing businesses from costs created by a single large customer.

The letter asks the Attorney General and the Commission to use their authority over ratepayer protection and utility cost recovery to establish clear rules before utilities make major investments that could remain on customer bills for decades.

Many Oklahoma seniors are retired and live on fixed incomes, leaving little room for unexpected increases in electricity costs, especially during the hottest months of the year. Even a modest rate increase can force these households to make difficult choices involving groceries, medicine, and other monthly expenses.

Large industrial facilities can create substantial new demand for electricity. Meeting that demand may require new power plants, transmission lines, substations, and other infrastructure. Without firm protections, utilities could seek to recover those costs from their full customer base, leaving households and small businesses to help finance infrastructure built primarily for one large corporate customer.

“Oklahoma’s affordable and dependable energy has helped make the state a place where companies want to invest and create jobs, and we support that growth,” said James Martin, founder and chairman of the 60 Plus Association. “Economic development should move forward in a way that protects the retirees and families who have paid into the electric system for years. A self-supply policy gives large new users responsibility for bringing or financing the power they need.”

“For a retired couple living on a fixed income, even a modest rate increase can force hard choices about groceries and medicine,” said Saul Anuzis, president of the 60 Plus Association. “Attorney General Drummond and the Corporation Commission can prevent unfair cost-shifting by setting clear rules before these expenses reach customer bills. Seniors and families across Oklahoma should not have to finance infrastructure built to serve one large corporate customer.”

The full letter is available <https://60plus.org/support-for-bring-your-own-new-generation-policy/>

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