

News...

...from the Illinois House of Representatives

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Flider: Dozens of Local Consumers Attend ICC Hearing to Voice Opposition to Ameren's Rate Hike Request

DECATUR, IL – Dozens of local residents joined state Rep. Bob Flider (D-Mount Zion) at a hearing of the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) on Monday night at the Decatur Civic Center to weigh in on Ameren's request for an electric and gas delivery rate increase valued at \$247 million. Flider requested the hearing be held in Decatur to provide local consumers with a louder voice in the rate-making process.

“It is clear from tonight's showing that local citizens are concerned about the possibility of another electric and gas rate increase, and rightfully so,” Flider said. “The ICC is required to listen to public comments before making any rate increase decision, and tonight's forum provided a good opportunity for Central Illinoisans to make their thoughts known. I stand with them in their opposition to Ameren's request.”

In November, Ameren filed rate increase requests with the ICC valued at \$247 million, easily surpassing their \$150 million contribution to the recent electric rate relief package passed by lawmakers.

At the meeting, Flider provided testimony urging the ICC to deny Ameren's request, citing the financial hardship so many of his constituents endured during the electric rate crisis of 2007. To help bolster his claims, Flider presented the ICC staff with the signatures of 1,621 local consumers who join him in urging the ICC to reject Ameren's proposed rate hikes.

The ICC meeting was held in Decatur at the behest of Flider who also passed a new law requiring the ICC to accept public comments at their hearings in Springfield, as well as establish means by which consumers can voice their concerns over the internet or via phone.

“I hope that the public will continue to join me in standing against Ameren's attempted rate hikes,” Flider said. “The only way consumers will be victorious is if we stick together and speak in a united voice to the ICC and let them know Ameren is already making too much off of Central Illinois' working families, senior citizens and small businesses.”

If you would like a blank petition against Ameren's request that you can circulate among family or friends, please call Flider's constituent service office at (217) 428-2708 or toll free at (866) 453-2066.

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