

# KANAWHA COUNTY COMMISSION

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**Ben Salango**  
Commissioner

**W. Kent Carper**  
Commissioner

**Lance Wheeler**  
Commissioner

March 20, 2023

Ms. Karen Buckley  
Executive Secretary  
West Virginia Public Service Commission  
201 Brooks Street  
Charleston, WV 25301

Re: **Case: 22-0393-E-ENEC** *Petition to Initiate the Annual Review and Update ENEC (Expanded Net Energy Cost) Rates Currently in Effect*

Dear Honorable Commissioners of the Public Service Commission:

The Kanawha County Commission continues to strongly oppose Appalachian Power Company's ("APCo") unprecedented request for a \$297 million rate increase. The Kanawha County Commission maintains that there is no way that APCo's residential and commercial customers can absorb a \$300 million rate increase in light of the numerous and considerable hikes that APCo has received. As we all know, many West Virginians are barely getting by, and wages do not match the out-of-control rise of inflation. To West Virginians, the spiraling cost of utilities is like a runaway train.

The Kanawha County Commission is aware that the Public Service Commission (PSC) has initially denied APCo's rate request pending the completion of the PSC staff prudence review regarding APCo's fuel costs. We fear in the very near future that the ENEC rate request will be quietly approved without any opportunity for the public to be heard. Therefore, we request the PSC provide a complete report following the staff prudence review. We then request that this matter be reopened for meaningful public hearings and for public comments. The public deserves to be heard.

Run-away trains have devastating consequences. The PSC needs to address these out-of-control trains from APCo.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. Kent Carper  
President

Ben Salango  
Commissioner

Lance Wheeler  
Commissioner