



# Avista Rate Increase Testimony Guide

June 7th 2023

6pm via Zoom

## Speak out against Avista putting customers at financial risk to grow their profits.

Avista is asking regulators to approve a new 8.1% bill increase for its residential Oregon gas customers. This would be an average added \$6.20 per month, with winter bills going up around \$13 a month.

CUB has major concerns with Avista's customer-funded subsidy to expand its gas system. This subsidy continues to add emissions in the face of increasing climate regulations. It also added \$6.9 million for customers in 2022 alone.

The Public Utility Commission is hosting a public hearing for Avista's Oregon gas customers to weigh in on a proposed rate increase.

Wednesday, June 7 - 6:00 pm

[Online via Zoom](#)

No registration required!

### Testimony Template Guideline:

**Introduce yourself.** Give your name, city/town, and your relationship to Avista. (Are you a customer? How long have you been a customer of Avista?):

**Identify your personal connection to this bill increase:**

- An extra \$6-\$13 would increase or put me under financial strain.
- I would have to reduce my other bills, like groceries or medication to accommodate this increase.
- I am concerned about how expanding the gas system will impact climate change.
- I do not want my bills going to add more fossil fuels in Oregon.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Write 2-3 sentences expanding on the issues you checked off. Elaborate on how each concern relates to your personal life.** If you are already financially strained with the high bills, where are you cutting corners financially already? What can you foresee impacting you on an immediate level with this bill increase? How might this increase impact your friends, neighbors, or other members of your community?

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**Restate your position and thank the members of the Commission.** State why reducing the rate increase will directly support you and your community. Encourage them to consider your concern.

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## Here's an example testimony with this outline:

Members of the Public Utility Commission,

My name is \_\_\_\_ and I am here today to speak out against Avista's proposed rate increase. I have been an Avista customer for ten years.

Over the past ten years, I have watched as my bills have continuously increased year after year. My current household budget already limits my ability to provide for my family. With an added \$6-\$13 a month in my budget towards utility bills, I'm concerned about how I will be able to afford transportation costs and grocery costs.

I am also concerned about my bills going to expand Avista's gas system. If Avista wants to add new customers and more climate emissions, that should not be paid for by customers like me.

This rate increase harms my family. Avista needs to think about its customers before asking us for more money without a plan for protecting us in the face of climate change. I implore you not to approve this rate increase and support the needs of Avista customers who are struggling to afford their bills already.

Thank you for your time,

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