

EDDIE DAY PASHINSKI, MEMBER

CAPITOL OFFICE:

27 EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202121
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2121
(717) 783-0686
FAX: (717) 772-2284

DISTRICT OFFICE:

152 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE.
WILKES-BARRE, PA 18702
(570) 825-5934

E-MAIL:

EPASHINS@PAHOUSE.NET



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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I would like to thank the PUC for conducting this public hearing to address the request by UGI Penn Natural Gas. Inc. for a rate increase. I am State Representative Eddie Day Pashinski representing the 121st Legislative District in Luzerne County. I would like to submit the following information for your consideration.

In early September of 2008, the fiscal State of Pennsylvania was positive, in the black and had accumulated a 750 million dollars Rainy Day Fund with an anticipated surplus of 3 to 5 hundred million dollars. Tremendous efforts were conducted by government officials to address the needs of the 12 ½ million residents of our great State and progress was being made in the areas of health care reform, economic development, green energy jobs and property tax reduction. Every county and municipal government, every local, state and county agency was providing service to their constituents and evaluating their needs and services. Businesses of all sizes, education and institutions of every level and community organizations representing every aspect of American life was all engaging in administering their daily routine. Every family, couple and individual gainfully employed or not, were also dealing with daily challenges, making plans for the future and attempting to reach their goals. Essentially, people were experiencing the normal positive and negative experiences of daily life.

And then on Sept. 18th of 2008, the Global Economic Collapse occurred. Normal? Hardly! Extraordinary and catastrophic for sure. At first glance, most people did not recognize the magnitude of the financial failure and most everyone continued on with their regular routine. People went to work, purchased food, durable goods, paid their bills and taxes and very few individuals truly understood the financial catastrophe this would become.

Within a few days and weeks, businesses, municipalities, government agencies and individuals began to analyze their assets and calculate their losses. Initial projections of losses were estimated and future plans for operation was determined.

The state of Pennsylvania conducted the same process and projected a deficit of approximately \$1.3 Billion dollars. As more information of the financial failure began to surface, deficits increased, and most people began to readjust their spending habits and made changes to future investments. State government announced a freeze on new hiring's and travel, energy reduction measures were put into place and only essential material and equipment was purchased.

In February of 09', the deficits expanded to projections of 2.3 Billion dollars, unemployment was rising at an alarming rate and the general public was reacting to the economic decline by staying home and purchasing essentials only.

In April of 09', deficit projections ballooned to 3.1 Billion dollars, creating the largest deficit in the history of Pennsylvania. Analysis of the effects of a 3.1 Billion dollar deficit revealed tremendous hardship would fall on countless Pennsylvanians. Vital programs for children, the disabled community and the elderly would be slashed

or discontinued. Literally every department and state agency would be seriously affected.

As a state official, the reality of drastic cuts and the elimination of vital programs and services are indeed daunting and inevitable. Recovery from this historic financial crisis will require prudent fiscal management, increased revenues and the development of a cohesive dedicated attitude by all Americans to work and experience the pain together.

Until, we as a state and we as a nation, realize that we are all in this financial war together and the ONLY WAY TO RECOVER from this unusual recession is to "Give before we Get", we must all suffer the pain in order to forge a new set of standards and safeguards to provide a path to prolonged recovery and future stability. We cannot continue to be guided by profit, bottom line principals without recognizing our responsibility as American Citizens, to preserve the strength of our democracy and preserve freedom through HONEST and well formulated decisions.

I deeply believe that if we work together as one America, one Pennsylvania we will recover from this deficit more quickly and with greater results for the future.

For the reasons stated, I am asking all utilities that have enjoyed prosperity in the past and continue to remain financially productive in the present, to agree to a TEMPORARY, VOLUNTARY MORATORIUM on any rate increase until we as a state begin to recover from this extraordinary global financial collapse. If the various utilities do not agree to this proposal, then I am asking the PUC to refuse any rate increase for the reasons previously stated.

I would like to make it clear that I sincerely appreciate the quality service provided by our utilities. I truly appreciate their managerial and operational success, decisive and skillful planning and I appreciate their investment of time, materials and personnel in order to provide consistent, reliable service. It is my hope that if the utilities agree to this gesture of American humanitarianism, other industries will follow the exceptional example of their love for America and do the same. No increases until we stabilize our financial short falls and begin the recovery.

I will respect the expertise of the PUC Commission to grant a minimum operational increase in order to maintain positive fiscal stability for the industry until this issue can be reviewed again. The time line for review or a trigger mechanism for additional increases should be determined by standard economic measurements used to report the state of our economy.

Thank you once for your consideration of this proposal.

SUBMITTED MAY 19, 2009