



## **BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

### **Resource Management Commission**

### **Recommendation No. 20221018-004B**

### **Resolution on Austin Energy Proposed Residential Electric Rate Increase**

Whereas, Austin has been a leader in energy efficiency since the 1970s; and

Whereas, Austin Energy has the lowest average Residential electricity consumption of any large utility in ERCOT, which also allows it to have one of the lowest average Residential bills of any utility in ERCOT; and

Whereas, proposed changes to Austin Energy's Residential electric rate structure threaten further progress in energy efficiency by dramatically removing price signals to conserve; and

Whereas, since low-income utility customers generally use less energy than average customers, changing Austin's progressive electric Residential rate structure that discourages consumption will make bills more burdensome to the lower and moderate income residents; and

Whereas, Austin Energy has made a proposal in its current rate case to completely replace the current progressive rate structure with one that rewards more consumption;

Whereas, Austin Energy's current \$10 per month customer charge is on par with fixed fees at other Texas municipal utilities, and Austin Energy's proposed \$25 per month fixed fee would far exceed similarly situated Texas municipal utilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Resource Management Commission of the City of Austin advises the City Council to retain Austin Energy's current progressive rate structure and avoid any significant increase in the customer charge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any rate increases are enacted, they be levied as a proportional increase to the utility's current monthly base cost and tiers in its current rate structure.

**Vote:** 6-1

**For:** Commissioner Kaiba White, Vice Chair; Commissioner Charlotte Davis; Commissioner Shane Johnson; Commissioner Paul Robbins; Commissioner Louis Stone; Commissioner Lisa Chavarria

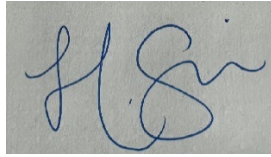
**Against:** Commissioner Jonathon Blackburn, Chair

**Abstentions:** None

**Off Dais:** None

**Absences:** Commissioner Sam Angoori; Commissioner Dana Harmon; Commissioner Rebecca Brenneman

**Vacancies:** District 7

A square image containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'H. Sin'.

**Attest:**

Natasha Goodwin, Staff Liaison