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IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in reponse to the purposed rate increase for natural gas by Avista.

Why can't they do better management of their company? Every time there is a tragedy they have to have an increase. Maybe they should look at the wages and expenses that they do exceedingly. Since Avista has taken over all that we get is INCREASES, INCREASES, INCREASES, and never any reductions.

I haven't had a wage increase for over **5 YEARS**, not even a 1% cost of living increase. I even have two jobs trying to survive. If this increase is approved I will have to make a choice between my Cancer treatment and being warm and comfortable so that I don't get pneumonia.

We are a low income area with low hourly wage jobs. Why should we pay **CALIFORNIA** prices on **IDAHO** wages. Maybe they should budget their money better. We have our natural resources to supply our water and energy.

This increase if approved will bring a great hardship to the retired people and elderly in this area.

PLEASE THINK VERY CAREFULLY ABOUT THIS INCREASE!!

Sincerely, Geraldine Bair 481 Nine Mile Road Wallace, Idaho 83873