

Milwaukee Ald. Robert Bauman: Resolution authorizes city opposition to potential We Energies rate increases

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Legislation authored by **Alderman Robert J. Bauman** that authorizes the City Attorney to file comments in opposition to Wisconsin Electric Power Company's and Wisconsin Gas LLC's joint application to increase electric, steam, and natural gas rates was adopted unanimously today by the full Common Council.

The resolution (Council file **#220612**) authorizes the City Attorney to file comments in opposition to the rate increases that Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCO) and Wisconsin Gas LLC have applied for to the **Public Service Commission** of Wisconsin (PSC).

Alderman Bauman, chair of the Public Works Committee, said We Energies currently has some of the highest rates in the Midwest, and the proposed increases will pose a significant hardship on the city's residents.

"Additionally, the PSC should not allow WEPCO to reap excessive profits on coal-fired power plants that were imprudently built and are now slated for shutdown," Alderman Bauman said, adding: "The utility has also delayed the closing of its Oak Creek coal-fired power plant units, continuing to contribute to pollution and climate change."

"I thank my Council colleagues for their support of this file (which is co-sponsored by Alderman Michael J. Murphy)," the alderman said.