



## MISSOURIANS WANT ENERGY CHOICE

Support for [HB 2207](#) (Rep. Don Mayhew),  
[HB 2233](#) (Rep. Tricia Byrnes), and [SB 1411](#) (Sen. Nick Schroer)

Business owners and residents support ending the electric utility monopoly to enable competition, cost savings, clean energy, and options for consumers. Hear what they have to say:

### **ANDREW COUNTY**

"With choice, maybe Everage will be forced to lower rates." - Yvonna M., Rosendale

### **ATCHISON COUNTY**

"What happened to all the windmills and solar that were supposed to lower our bill, but it just raised it?" - Denton C., Tarkio

### **BUCHANAN COUNTY**

"Competition reduces costs." - Denise B., St. Joseph

"Having a choice always helps the consumers. It brings prices down to a mean level." - Nellie P., St. Joseph

"I am on a fixed income, own my home, and still can't afford my utilities. Electricity averages half of my income during the summer heat and winter cold months. I can't afford to do anything, and it is hard, I can't afford Christmas presents for my grandkids or even to go visit them, take them to McDonald's, etc, and it breaks my heart." - Pam M., St. Joseph

"We need a choice!" - Steven N., St. Joseph

"The current utility companies can charge whatever they want because they have no competition. I would love to be able to switch companies from these over-priced money-hungry companies." - Melissa S., Saint Joseph

"It has really gotten way unfairly high due to the utility tacking on high rates at \$7.50/kWh during peak period and \$1.50/kWh extra during off-peak hours. And that's on top of \$0.11/kWh, plus a \$35.00 fee for service availability. It's becoming a robbery!! SAD for retired seniors!!!" - Terry S., St. Joseph

"I want lower energy bills. Otherwise, everyone will go off-grid, and then there won't be a grid." - Chris J., St. Joseph

### **BUTLER COUNTY**

"Where I live, it depends on what side of town you live on as to who your electric provider is, no choices, and they raise rates whenever they want with no competition." - Melissa T., Poplar Bluff

### **CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY**

"Competition is good for the consumer." - Russell W., Cape Girardeau

"I believe everyone should have a choice!" - Nancy B., Cape Girardeau

## **CASS COUNTY**

"Energy costs are much too high. Every time Evergy requests an increase in electric rates, they always get what they ask for." - Kristine S., Belton

"The Evergy peak use rate hike for electricity is ridiculous. We have to cut back our use during peak hours or get charged at a higher rate. They say it is because they cannot handle the demand. If that is true, why are contractors allowed to build new apartments and new housing all around us? Stop the massive building projects here in KC if you can't provide the energy needed." - Brad P., Raymore

"Monopolies should be illegal, period. They stagnate competition and lead to higher prices, lower standards of service, and neglect of improving or even maintaining infrastructure." Jason L., Belton

"They just keep adding more of their expenses to our bills. Why can't we have some kind of competition for our business, not just the monopoly we're stuck with?" - Thomas F., Raymore

## **CHRISTIAN COUNTY**

"I have ridiculously high electricity bills for no good reason." - Melissa F., Nixa

## **CLAY COUNTY**

"I find it absolutely disgusting that we don't get a choice and the one utility company in my city racks up endless charges because they can." - Amanda H., Kansas City

"I think the existence of monopolies is a failure of the greed part of capitalism, and when one entity is allowed to own it all, they do raise prices to get more profit, even if they don't need to. With market competition, it keeps prices lower as each company is then competing for your money, instead of having no choice but to pay rising prices." - Heather G., Kansas City

"I think we should have choices and no industry should be monopolized." - Leonor F., Kansas City

"Should have to compete and earn business." - Kyle J., Kansas City

"Spire has increased the cost of natural gas to the point it is difficult to heat your home. " - Janice G., Kearney

"Utility companies need regulatory checks and balances. It is baffling that for-profit companies monopolize our utilities." - Aaron R., Kansas City

"Being a citizen in the United States is supposed to be about having choices, not submitting to a singular entity that decides the price of resources that everyone deserves to have to live comfortably. Missouri needs to rejoin the United States and get back to good old-fashioned freedom of choice." - Blane R., Kansas City

"By allowing people to choose their energy providers, we can encourage innovation, drive down costs, and save regular folks some money." - Justin N., Kansas City

"As a retiree, I'm interested in exploring cost savings options." - Patricia K., Gladstone

"Consumers need choices. Choices drive competition and innovation. This is a no-brainer." - Cory C., Liberty

#### **DEKALB COUNTY**

"They are giving themselves another raise in just two years. As of Jan 1, rates are going up again 14%." - Ruby W., Union Star

#### **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

"I'm tired of paying over \$200 to keep my house below 80 in the summer." - Samantha B., Ava

#### **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

"As a single mother, I would appreciate a more affordable option for my electricity." - Camille S., Pacific

"I'm a retired woman on social security, and my electric bill is almost \$400 a month. Too much for me to pay with all my other bills. I struggle every month." - Teresa S., Villa Ridge

"Monopolies should be illegal. They serve only to help corrupt politicians and the business owners who pay them off. They prevent the possibility of entrance to the market that is guaranteed as a right to our American businesses and force families into paying high rates." - Cassandra H., Washington

"I hate that the only company I can get electricity from is Ameren, and we have no choice about the rate raises. They want to bankrupt the people they serve. The cost of utilities keeps going up, but our paychecks don't." - Samantha P., Washington

#### **GREENE COUNTY**

"A monopoly allows companies to take advantage of the consumer. They are never a good thing." - Jacob C., Springfield

"Energy companies should have to compete when there is competition, we win." - Caleb B., Springfield

"It's getting ridiculous! I can't afford it anymore. One whole paycheck goes to utilities, and then I don't have enough for other expenses." - Nidie P., Springfield

"Monopolies and price gouging are unconstitutional." - Alayna G., Springfield

"My city utilities bill was \$400 this past summer. We need other companies to come and see if you can lower your costs. It would be great for people on fixed incomes." - Pamela H., Springfield

"You don't have a choice when it's a monopoly. I would like to have a choice." - Eva P., Springfield

"I don't like that I have no choice but to get my energy from one source. They keep raising prices, and I have no choice but to pay." - Aaron P., Republic

#### **JACKSON COUNTY**

"Land of the free, including choices. My electric bill is horrible." - Jana U., Kansas City

"Competition brings prices down." - Julie W., Lees Summit

"Costs are too high for us senior citizens on fixed incomes." - Roger S., Lees Summit

"Free market is always better " - RD A., Independence

"I can't do my laundry till after 8:30 pm every night, or my bill rises \$35." - Patricia C., Kansas City

"I feel like with the current Evergy plan, I am paying for someone else's. My bill got so high that I cannot afford it. I want more choices." - Monique S., Kansas City

"I want to save money instead of being squeezed for it." - Aaron W., Independence

"Just want a better deal. I'm tired of getting overcharged." - Caleb G., Grandview

"My electricity bill is extremely high, and we can barely afford it. We could not take another \$17 a month." - Brian M., Blue Springs

"Prices are too high." - Barbara M., Independence

"Retired people can not keep up with the prices." - Robert T., Kansas City

"The game of Monopoly is just that, a game. Not providing options for families to manage spending on necessities such as energy, water, and heat. These companies do not care about the individuals they are hurting." - Monica B., Kansas City

"There should be choices of providers. For fair competition for reasonable rates." - Linda K., Kansas City

"Utility companies gouging people on bills." - Holly J., Greenwood

"We, as consumers, should have a choice and a possibility for lower rates" - Tera S., Independence

"We've done everything that the company has suggested to lower our bill. Even limiting usage during certain times. I'm tired of still seeing my bill go sky high. We need a break." - Kathy C., Grandview.

"As senior citizens on a fixed income, we cannot continue to live in Missouri if rates continue to rise." - Roger S., Lee's Summit

"Competition in the marketplace is a fundamental American principle." - Philip Y, Kansas City

"Competition in the market benefits us all through innovation and infrastructural variety. A subsidized monopoly does one thing well, extract wealth from its components." - Andrew M., Kansas City

"Competition is good for the consumer. We live in a free market that is underpinned by healthy competition." - Russ B., Kansas City

"Generally, when there's only one choice, that company will eventually tend to raise and raise the rates since there's no other competitor." - Addy A., Independence

"I already have a hard time paying my bills. Now I have to walk around my house with no lights on!" - Cynthia C., Greenwood

"I am sick and tired of paying these greedy companies too much for energy bills, and prices are always going up. As a Missouri resident, something needs to change!" - Stacy H., Kansas City

"I don't support monopolies. Particularly when the executives are making millions. It doesn't make sense for the middle class to be punished like this." - Billy C, Kansas City

"I think it's ridiculous, hard-working civilians deserve affordable and reliable electricity." - Alyssa M., Kansas City

"It is unreasonable to only be provided one option for an essential service. It's a dangerous precedent that allows for corporations to exploit customers who are at their mercy for essential services." - Lindsey H., Kansas City

"Missouri's ratepayers deserve energy choice." - Sean M., Kansas City

"Missouri needs to have a better consumer choice." - Gloria B., Grandview

"No monopoly. Lower our bills." - Roger S., Lee's Summit

"Not being able to choose your utility provider is horrendous. Not only do you have to bow to the only company you're offered, but they can screw you over and over again with higher and higher rates and fees. We are begging for choices, lower prices, and a trustworthy company. That's who we want to give our money to!" - Amanda C., Independence

#### **JASPER COUNTY**

"Prices are too high, and there's zero competition to bring the rates down." - Tonya E., Joplin

"The monopoly is terrible. My electric bill usually runs \$85 -\$90 a month. Since Liberty Utilities installed a new meter, my bill has jumped by \$150-\$300, and they tell me it's the meter trying to correct itself. I think it's because they want to get my average higher so they can say, "This is your average." If customers don't have the ability to expect fair pricing and we can't turn to another utility because of underhanded practices, we are doomed." - Mark C., Joplin

#### **JEFFERSON COUNTY**

"Anytime you only have one provider, you're going to get high prices. We need to have competitive electricity and the state of Missouri." - Kathryn T., Fenton

"We need clean energy, solar wind options." - James L., High Ridge

"Energy choice could be more affordable to our pocketbooks. We could have a big conglomerate, or we could go to the smaller electric companies that could give us a more affordable deal." - Melissa M., Cedar Hill

"Energy is through the roof. I stayed down in my basement all summer so I could keep the upstairs at 84, thinking I would save, but they charged more for kilowatts in the summer. We definitely need some competition." - Chris R., Barnhart

"I am tired of these big companies having power over us and shoes and make us pay what they want for our energy or any of our utilities, and this has got to stop" - Pamela I., Festus

"It is high time to stop all greed throughout Corporate America so the low-income and middle-class citizens have more to feed back into our economy. Make America great again for all, not just for those who are already wealthy." - Steven R., Barnhart

"I've always said it's not fair that we only have one choice." - SueAnna G., High Ridge

"Older people cannot afford an increase." - Hilda E., Cedar Hill

"I think Liberty Electric is taking advantage of its customers with all of the price hikes. I live on disability, and my income is limited. It comes down to me paying my electric bill or buying my medication. We need to have another choice as far as our electric needs go." - Carla P., Joplin

"I think the utilities are taking advantage of us and charging more than people can afford." - Kathy J., Carthage

"We need choices in all services. Utility monopolies are making it impossible to keep up with rising food costs, medical care, and taxes. It also appears as though public service commissions are not receptive to input from consumers." - Johann R., Festus

"We sit in one room at night with one light on with blankets and rarely use our oven and only do laundry twice a month, and we still always owe significantly more at the end of the year. And all the extra fees they charge usually add at least \$20 to our actual bill for usage." - Donna H., High Ridge

#### **JOHNSON COUNTY**

"So tired of the high bills and peak hours and no choice in how I operate my home, and can't save money!" - Sharon S., Kingsville

#### **KNOX COUNTY**

"Ameren keeps changing rates. Their peak hours are not saving anything. The rates, unless I am wrong, are only during the weekdays. If they choose for you, your peak hours are from 1 pm to 8 pm when kids and family are home." - Starla N., Edina

#### **LAFAYETTE COUNTY**

"The monopoly these electric companies have over us has got to stop. We need a choice in Missouri. Just like anything else, to make it more cost-effective for consumers, there needs to be competition. Missouri is a conservative state. Let's act like it and do the right thing for your constituents. Give us the opportunity to decide." - Deanna R., Napoleon

"Competition will control prices. Our current system allows rich and powerful companies to rob the people of Missouri." - John S., Wellington

"The power company has made it nearly impossible to keep the bill paid. I think more should be done to put solar panels on all buildings that use electricity." - Richard T., Concordia

#### **LAWRENCE COUNTY**

"It's ridiculous and unfair. No company should hold a monopoly on anything. I worked for a company that represented utilities in Texas. The options and rates were amazing. I used to tell customers how lucky they were to have options, because where I live, you don't have an option, and the leading company does whatever it wants, and consumers have no say in the matter." - Kandi E., Miller

"Let me choose my own options when it comes to utilities." - Summer H., Aurora

"Liberty keeps raising rates without quality service. - Wanda M., Aurora

"Our rates are too high." - Kathryn P., Mount Vernon

"We need competition." - Ron S., Aurora

"My only choice is Liberty Electric. They are constantly raising our rates. They decide whether we use too much and then add an additional \$50 to our bill, recommend that laundry, etc., be done after 9 p.m., etc. Their customer service is lacking all the way around. We deserve energy choice." - Carla G., Marionville

#### **LINCOLN COUNTY**

"I think monopoly incentivizes companies to put profit above their customers. I know there are a lot of issues with allowing choice, but I would like to see the options better explored." - Celina T., Wright City

#### **MARIES COUNTY**

"I would love to see some competition in Missouri!" - Robert V., Belle

#### **MCDONALD COUNTY**

"Remember the Bell Telephone monopoly? Maybe an anti-trust lawsuit similar to the one that ended that monopoly and brought prices down is what is needed here!" - RD W., South West City

#### **MILLER COUNTY**

"Choice makes customers happy." - Kathy W., Eldon

#### **NEWTON COUNTY**

"I used to sell Texas electricity. It's nice to choose your provider. More competitive fair prices." - Mary B., Joplin

"I've never lived any place else where I had absolutely no choice in electric providers. It's outrageous!! I thought monopolies were against the law, but not here, where they are assigned to you! Empire was tolerable, but Liberty is the worst company I've ever dealt with! I'm a senior on a fixed income and cannot afford the latest 35% increase. My Social Security certainly didn't increase that much. Where is the extra money supposed to come from?" - Susan H., Seneca

"My bills in January and February are already over \$909 per month! How much more money is enough for these greedy companies!!" - Jewellia W., Stark City

### **NODAWAY COUNTY**

"They just had a 5 million increase in expenses and asked for 109 million in increased revenues. Absolute nonsense! Plus, they pay me 1/10th of what they charge me for my solar contributions." - Douglas K., Maryville

### **PETTIS COUNTY**

"Monopolies should be illegal." - Teresa C., Sedalia

"I believe we should have choices with energy services so there's no monopoly run on the citizens of Missouri. We deserve competitive pricing." - Christie C., Sedalia

### **PLATTE COUNTY**

"Can't afford my bill, and it keeps going up." - LuAnn S., Kansas City

"Choice over monopoly." - DL L., Kansas City

"Evergy is monopolizing the entire two-state area. They overcharge and tack on all kinds of different fees. People deserve to have a choice on who their energy provider is." - Melanie J., Kansas City

"Utilities are outrageous, and I would like to have more than one option." - Cecilia D., Kansas City

"You, the politicians, are to have your constituents' interest ahead of the utilities companies' interest. What's wrong with your morals? You work for us, act like it. No unnecessary rate increases. All we ask for is common sense." - Richard B., Platte City

### **POLK COUNTY**

"Ameren is nothing but scammers. They lie, cheat, and take advantage of everyone, and you have no choice but to take it and pay them to do so... This cause can honestly make a difference because it's greatly needed" - Jennifer M., Burns

"I desire competition to keep rates reasonable and affordable." - James J., Humansville

"I just believe a monopoly is never a good idea." - Kimberly C., Bolivar

"It's awful and killing our town. We have lost so many businesses this year because they can't afford to operate under Liberty Utilities." - Jacquelynn R., Bolivar

"Our utility bills are outrageous." - Rhonda M., Humansville

### **RANDOLPH COUNTY**

"I hate the fact that I do not have a choice in who my utility company is. The only one available in my county is Ameren, and my average bill is \$400 a month, with up to \$900 during the summer months. This is a marked increase over even last year. How is anyone supposed to afford this??!" - Rebecca S., Moberly

### **ST. CHARLES COUNTY**

"Ameren is out of control, and now Spire is following their footsteps. We need cheaper utilities. I'm next door to a cheaper utility, but my area was monopolized, so I have no access to save money." - Angelica E., O'Fallon

"Unleash the free market that encourages companies to be innovative, compete for their customers' business, provide return on investment, and offer respectful customer service. Had there been electric company competition, maybe Ameren wouldn't have been so heavy." - Mary Ann B., St. Peters

"Electric bills are very, very high. We need a break." - Kim C., St. Charles

"End the monopoly, please." - Patricia M., O'Fallon

"I believe utility monopolies can stifle competition, which leads to higher prices and reduced incentives for innovation. Without alternative providers, I have little leverage to demand better service quality or more efficient infrastructure upgrades." - Serge K., St. Charles

"Raising costs so frequently is nothing but corporate greed. Thank you for doing this work!" - Diana L., St. Charles

"I'm very excited about the prospect of energy choice." - Connie K., St. Charles

### **ST. CLAIR COUNTY**

"I'm sick of high rates." - Geri M., Osceola

### **ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY**

"I want a choice of utility companies. Not just here's the deal, accept our price or have no electric." - Deborah C., Bismarck

"Without energy choice, being retired and on a fixed income means making a choice between staying warm and having to do without other things with electricity that we need. There are six people living in my home, so it is very hard with the constant rate increases. Please do something about it." - David T., Bonne Terre

"It's getting ridiculous how the utilities are getting rich off us. This monopoly is crazy and needs to be stopped. People can't keep living like this." - Charles M., Bonne Terre

### **ST. LOUIS COUNTY**

"It makes no sense that my bill is over 400 in the summer months. I'm on a fixed income." - Heather H., Saint Louis

"They keep getting raises and have no consideration for those who pay for their raises. We never have any say in any of it, and we have no choice but to keep paying higher prices. Tired of it." - Laura O., Saint Louis

"We are directed to the only utilities company in my area, regardless of whether they are performing the best for our communities. To have a choice is better." - June V., Saint Louis

"We have some new choices. The public needs choices." - Kelley O., Saint Louis

"A proposed 15% rate increase by Ameren. That's nuts. We need alternatives." - Frances B., Chesterfield

"Ameren's rates go up every year, and they are quick to disconnect your service if you are a month late in paying the bill." - Catherine R., Ellisville

"Anytime a corporation has a monopoly, they can treat their customers anyway they want. I have received 3 disconnection notices within the last two months, each requiring an almost \$400 payment. I have paid over \$1000 in two months for the service. That is insane. As long as I don't have another source for electricity, I have no choice but to pay." - Donna A., Saint Louis

"Competition can mean lower energy costs." - Amy B., Valley Park

"Ameren is monopolizing it's the only one we have. There is no other electric company we can call, and their rates are ridiculous." - Flora R., Florissant

"Hate it. Have been saying for years we need choices " - Lora D., Saint Louis

"I need solar." - Sunny G., Hazelwood

"I thought that monopolies were against the law!! " - Phyllis L., Black Jack

"I would like more choices in our utilities " - Colleen T., Ballwin

"I'm excited to have the choice so we can try to find a better supplier that's more affordable!" - Bryan B., Florissant

"It would be better if we had options so that you could get a better chance of being able to sign up with a company that would work with you so you could afford your bills and not have to sacrifice whether or not you have to do without your medicine or pay your utility bill." - Glenease R., Saint Louis

"It's about time consumers have choices!" - Elizabeth M., Ballwin

"Lower our bills." - Robin S., Saint Louis

"Some rates appear to go up extremely high; sometimes I feel they're taking advantage of us seniors. I've been to my place, and I live practically in a small matchbox apartment; it's just me. They charge me over \$100.00! I pay it, but I feel I'm being taken advantage of, and that's not nice at all! I've always paid my bills. It's hard to make ends meet as a person on disability. People don't care about us." - Dorothy H., Saint Louis

"The state commission that approves each and every utility request for an increase in Missouri.....grants the request. I do not believe the requests are considered without prejudice by the utility companies. Gas in Missouri is also a monopoly." - Wylma D., Saint Louis

"There needs to be competition. Right now, we are hostages for rate increases we have no say in." - Charla M., Florissant

"There should be no monopolies of any kind in the United States!" - Connie T., Saint Louis

"Utility bills are just way too high. I need a break because I'm overwhelmed." - Michael H., Saint Louis

"We definitely need energy choices! Monopolies have a stranglehold on consumer rates. This needs to end!" - Gary R., Eureka

"Competition is better for consumers." - Alan R., Brentwood

"It's disgraceful that we have no choice and have to submit to monopoly pricing while our elected officials do nothing to protect us." - Mark B., St. Louis

"If Ameren loses enough people, maybe they will lower their rates! Utility companies all suck! You have no say in rates but need their product!" - Debbie K., Florissant

"Something needs to be done. Prices are getting too high to afford, especially for low-income and seniors." - Gary D., Florissant

"The cost keeps going up, and I have no options." - Thomas B., St. Louis

#### **STODDARD COUNTY**

"If you want electricity, you have to go with Ameren, the highest, and I at least want a choice." - Tracy F., Dexter

#### **STONE COUNTY**

"I think they should be held accountable for holding us hostage and not having consent with the smart meter technology." - Leatonya K., Crane

#### **VERNON COUNTY**

"We may have to move into a tiny home to continue to have electricity. It's outrageous how much we have to pay to have basic needs in life." - Deb B., Schell City

#### **WARREN COUNTY**

"I'm on a fixed income, and the rate is out of control." - Kimberly T., Warrenton

"Monopolies should be illegal." - Alex T., Wright City

#### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

"I think monopolies should be illegal. I don't understand how they get away with it. Competition makes prices go down. Amren puts in at least once or twice a year for rate hikes and never gets turned down." - Richard B., Cadet