



# THE TAOS NEWS

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## My Turn

### Outrage over Kit Carson rate hike

**Sandra Richardson**

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I thought being a co-op meant looking after your members and having their best interests at heart. It seems I was mistaken.

I was aghast at the news that you are considering doubling the member service rate. This is incredible bad and backward action/thinking on the part of your organization!

At a time when the entire planet is thinking about how to reduce energy consumption and conserve energy, you are proposing changes that actually penalize people for doing so: "The most frugal energy users will see the biggest increase in their monthly bills"... ( *Taos News*, Sept. 23).

Your actions make the federal rebates for energy efficient replacement windows and appliances useless. You promote the use of energy-efficient light bulbs, and then penalize people for saving energy. Offers of weather stripping low-income houses for free become a waste of time, as no money will be saved by the homeowner conserving energy use ... instead, "energy hogs" will benefit from your rate hike!

You need to find a different way to increase your margins — which, actually, is an outrageous, greed-driven goal! You want a 5.16 percent profit on money, when most of your customers are getting less than a 1 percent return on their money in the bank!

How can you dare to say you are entitled to this kind of profit?

You should be happy with 2 percent (which is double what most of us are making!!) Times are tough, and your inconsiderate behavior just makes it tougher! Stop thinking of your members as your piggy bank. You are supposed to be working on our behalf, not bleeding us dry for a better bottom line.

Charge more for energy use, not less — if you must have more money — which I think is unnecessary. Do not penalize people who are trying to be responsible and save the planet.

You must behave in an energy-conserving, enlightened way now. Is imperative for all our futures! Your behavior is totally unacceptable! Take this opportunity to actually lead the way into a greener, financially viable future for your members, rather than race backward with greed as your only motivation!

*Sandra Richardson, a Ranchos de Taos resident, sent this letter to the Kit Carson Electric*

*Cooperative Board and CEO Lu's Reyes.*

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