

Senator Mike Bohacek
State House
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Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2785
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Committees:
Health and Provider Services
Local Government

The Honorable Todd Rokita
Office of the Indiana Attorney General
Indiana Government Center South
302 W. Washington St., 5th Floor
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Request for Investigation into NIPSCO for Deceptive Consumer Sales

Dear Attorney General Rokita,

I'm writing to request your office pursue an investigation into potential deceptive consumer practices carried out by NIPSCO regarding discrepancies in its natural gas bills across northern Indiana.

These concerns were first brought to my attention by several of my constituents who reside in the NIPSCO service area reaching out to my office to inquire about the increase in their recent energy bills. After looking into this issue further, I found reporting from the Times of Northwest Indiana that revealed NIPSCO was under investigation already by the IURC for incorrect readings on several thousand meters. During testimony, NIPSCO Regulatory Policy and Demand Side Management Director Robert Sears said that they had discovered that some of their mechanical meter indexes were not functioning properly, resulting in over 3,000 consumers being charged "for twice as much natural gas as they actually consumed." If NIPSCO had any information they knew this was an issue prior to disclosing their findings to the IURC, that could fall under Indiana's deceptive consumer sales statute in IC 24-5-0.5.

The Indiana state government through the IURC has the authority to regulate utility providers, and the Attorney General's office is empowered to protect consumers from deceptive sales practices. At a time when Hoosiers are anxious and uncertain about rising utility costs, we should hold utility providers accountable for incorrectly billing consumers for more energy than they actually used.

Regards,



Mike Bohacek
Indiana State Senator
District 8

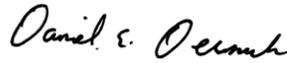
Additionally, the following state legislators have agreed to cosign this letter:



Rick Niemeyer
State Senator
District 6



Rodney Pol, Jr.
State Senator
District 4



Dan Dernule
State Senator
District 1



Randy Novak
State Representative
District 9