

## **Resolution No. 2953**

### **A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ALLIANT ENERGY RATE INCREASE CASE AND JOINING AS AN INTERVENER BY SUBMITTING TESTIMONY TO THE IOWA UTILITIES BOARD (Docket RPU-2019-0001)**

WHEREAS, Alliant Energy has asked the Iowa Utilities Board to approve a 2019 rate increase that will raise base rates 24.45% for residential customers, 18.36% for general service customers, and 25.29% for large general service customers, and

WHEREAS, customers within the City of Decorah currently pay about \$10.6 million per year in electricity costs (according to data presented by Alliant Energy to the City in February, 2018), and an overall 20% increase would drain an additional \$2.1 million every year from local household budgets and the balance sheets of businesses and institutions, including roughly \$85,000 in increased electricity costs for the City of Decorah, and

WHEREAS, Alliant Energy presented information to the City of Decorah during the 2018 municipalization debate claiming rates would rise no more than 3% every 3 years for 20 years, and

WHEREAS, Alliant Energy's last rate increase in 2017 raised rates by 7.8%, and

WHEREAS, Alliant Energy has testified before the Iowa Utilities Board that a biennial rate case cycle should be considered, which may suggest another increase request in 2021, and

WHEREAS, Alliant Energy's rates are already 35-45% higher (depending on rate class) than the other investor-owned utility serving Iowa (MidAmerican Energy), and also higher than the state averages for municipal electric utilities and rural electric cooperatives in all customer classes, and

WHEREAS, Alliant's rapidly rising rates are causing serious hardship for low- and moderate-income households, fixed income households, small businesses, industries, nonprofit institutions, educational institutions, and the City of Decorah, and

WHEREAS, Alliant's rapidly rising rates are also creating a serious hindrance for economic development in the City of Decorah, and

WHEREAS, Alliant Energy has aggressively pursued legislation and regulation limiting the ability of customers and communities to save money and keep energy dollars local, including slashing the energy efficiency programs, working to overturn net metering, and creating and proposing separate classes and fees for distributed generation customers, and

WHEREAS, Alliant Energy posted \$457 million in profits in 2017 and has provided an 18.2% annualized return to its shareholders over the last five years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DECORAH CITY COUNCIL, The City of Decorah’s City Council:

1. Stands in opposition to the proposed rate increase.
2. Believes the current rate increase represents a significant breach of trust and accountability between Alliant Energy, the City of Decorah, and Decorah customers.
3. Is committed to intervening and submitting testimony to the Iowa Utilities Board in Docket RPU-2019-0001, either alone or in partnership with a coalition of local entities.
4. Shall have Lorraine Borowski, Mayor, or a Decorah City Official present this Resolution to the Iowa Utilities Board during the May 2, 2019 public hearing to be held in Decorah.
5. Encourages all citizens and ratepayers to voice their perspectives and concerns at the Iowa Utilities Board’s Customer Comment Meeting scheduled for 6 pm, Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Hotel Winneshiek in Decorah. Comments may also be submitted online through the Iowa Utilities Board’s “Open Docket Comment Form”, or by emailing [customer@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iub.iowa.gov).

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2019.

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Lorraine Borowski, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Wanda Hemesath, MMC, City Clerk, Tr.