

# STOP THE PUNITIVE ELECTRIC RATE HIKE!

SIGN THE ENERGY PROTEST PETITION HERE

HURF Austin Energy Petition – FAQ's

1) **Q: Why sign this petition?**

A: With the signatures of only 3,000 suburban households, we can make Austin Energy (AE) defend its unfair and excessive rate hike before the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT). PUCT has the power to direct AE to remove excessive costs and correct unfair pricing practices in its recent rate hike. This means suburban customers can achieve lower, more equitable electricity rates.

2) **Q: What is HURF?**

A: HURF stands for Homeowners United for Rate Fairness. We are a grass roots citizens organization representing the rights of suburban Austin Energy customers. HURF is a Texas registered 501(c) 4 non-profit corporation. Find out more at [www.hurf.org](http://www.hurf.org).

3) **Q: Why does HURF oppose Austin Energy's new electric rates?**

A: AE's new rates are excessive. In a time when electricity is getting cheaper all over Texas, AE wants to raise many suburban electric bills 20% or more! That's on top of increases totaling 15% since 2008. A big driver of higher rates is that the City of Austin takes \$150 Million or more a year from AE for non-utility purposes. If the city didn't take that money, no rate increase would be needed. It's **Taxation Without Representation.**

4) **Q: Who can sign the petition?**

A: **One** Austin Energy customer from each household that uses Austin Energy may sign, provided that household is located outside the City of Austin.

**Q: How do I get my signed petition back to HURF?**

A: Find information on where you can take your petition at [www.hurf.org/petition](http://www.hurf.org/petition), or **FAX** your completed form to **512-727-9161**. You do not have to have any more than 1 signature per page, but we'd love you to get a few friends to sign it too before you send it in!

5) **Q: Why is HURF asking for donations? Where will the money go?**

A: Obviously HURF has some expenses for gathering the required signatures. But the real expenses start after our petition is accepted by the PUCT. We will need several hundred thousand dollars for lawyers and utility rate experts to make sure that our case prevails at the PUCT. However, the annual savings for suburban customers could easily amount to millions of dollars. To make a donation go to [www.hurf.org](http://www.hurf.org).