



State of Maine  
**Office of the Public Advocate**  
112 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0112  
(207) 624-3687 (voice) 711 (TTY)  
[www.Maine.gov/meopa](http://www.Maine.gov/meopa)

Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

William S. Harwood  
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

OPA Summit press release

## **MAINE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE OPPOSES PROPOSED RATE INCREASE BY SUMMIT UTILITIES**

### ***Natural gas provider proposes rate increases in excess of 200%***

MEDIA CONTACT: William Harwood, 207-624-3687, [William.Harwood@maine.gov](mailto:William.Harwood@maine.gov)

**APRIL 28, 2022 | HALLOWELL, ME** – The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) is opposing a proposed rate increase by Summit Utilities, the company that provides distributes natural gas to customers in the Kennebec Valley, as well as Falmouth, Cumberland and Yarmouth.

On March 31st Summit Utilities requested that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approve an increase in its distribution rates of more than 200%.

Maine’s Public Advocate, William Harwood, said, “This proposal to triple Summit’s rates over seven years is one of the largest rate increases ever proposed by a Maine public utility. If approved, it would impose a terrible financial burden on Summit’s customers. My office will do everything we can to convince the PUC to reject this outrageous proposal.”

Currently Summit customers pay the highest natural gas rates in Maine. A typical residential Summit customer pays approximately \$170/month, while customer of the other three Maine natural gas utilities pay an average of approximately \$90-\$120/month, depending on which gas utility serves them. If the proposed increase were approved, the average Summit monthly bill would increase over seven years to approximately \$350/month, more than 300% above the current rates of the other three Maine natural gas utilities.

“The people most at risk for financial harm in this situation are the customers of Summit,” Harwood added, “therefore, my office is requesting the PUC to hold evening hearings in Summit’s coverage areas to give customers an opportunity to express their views to the PUC about the impact of this increase on their lives.”

If any Summit customers have questions or concerns about the proposed increase, they can contact OPA at 207-624-3687.