

**BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Commission, on its ) Application No. NG-102/PI-225  
own motion, seeking to review policies )  
and practices relating to the ) Progression Order #9  
administration of customer choice )  
programs for natural gas service ) Entered: May 12, 2026  
offered within the State of Nebraska )

**COMMENTS OF THE PUBLIC ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENERGY**

ACE (Public Alliance for Community Energy), as a supplier in the Nebraska Choice Gas Program, submits this comment in response to the Commission’s May 12, 2026 notice issued in the above docket. ACE, formed in February 1998, consists of seventy-six (76) communities and one (1) public power district that joined together to form an entity to become a retail supplier of natural gas. These communities are helping their citizens save money by insuring price competition in the Nebraska Choice Gas Program.

This comment briefly responds to one issue raised by the Commission’s notice, specifically discussion related to the Fixed Monthly Bill (“FMB”) price options offered by certain suppliers in the Nebraska Choice Gas Program and the impacts of a General Rate filing by Black Hills in May of 2025 and a subsequent stipulation regarding issues raised by suppliers in that proceeding. ACE strongly supports continuing the FMB pricing option.

FMB gives retail customers a predictable monthly natural gas bill with no true-up. For many customers, especially those on fixed incomes, that predictability makes FMB the only pricing option they will consider.

Customer enrollment demonstrates strong demand for FMB. Based on enrollment files provided by Black Hills Energy, 13,854 customers—more than 17 percent of the 80,829 total eligible customers—were enrolled in an FMB pricing option for the 2025–26 Choice Gas Program year. Supplier participation also reflects this demand: six of the eight suppliers in the Nebraska Choice Gas Program, including ACE, offer FMB to meet customers’ expressed preference for predictable monthly bills.

The FMB pricing option includes supplier charges for the natural gas commodity, structured as a level monthly rate throughout the year regardless of usage. It also includes regulated distribution charges from Black Hills Energy. The timing of Black Hills Energy’s May 2025 general rate case filing was problematic because it occurred one week after suppliers enrolled customers based on the distribution rates then in effect. As a result, suppliers faced two unfavorable options: notify customers and increase their FMB rates, or absorb the loss.

Given FMB’s popularity, ACE believes it should remain available in the Choice Gas Program. ACE submits that future rate case filings should be timed so final rates are known before the annual

selection period, or that BHE should provide confidential advance notice of a rate proceeding to Choice Gas Suppliers, as suggested in this docket. Either approach would allow suppliers to accurately include utility distribution charges in FMB offerings.

### CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth herein, ACE respectfully requests that the Commission consider these comments and support the suggested resolutions set forth herein.

Dated: June 23, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

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