

May 19, 2020

Kim Sumner

P.O. Box 1483

Hyden, Ky 41749

RECEIVED

MAY 22 2020

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Public Service Commission

P.O.Box 615

Frankfort, KY 40602

Re: Case No. 2020-00141

To Whom it May Concern:

I am very concerned about the hardship the new rate increases will create for our citizens that rely strictly on an SSI check for income. For example, I know a young woman who was seriously injured in a car accident years ago that left her with a physical disability. She has been receiving SSI benefits ever since. She currently receives \$783.00 in monthly benefits and \$135 in food stamps. Her basic monthly expenses are as follows:

Rent	\$400
Electricity	100.00 (avg)
Water	20.24
Wastewater/sewer	14.30
Phone & Internet	55.00
Total	\$589.54

With these basic expenses, she is left with around \$190.00 for clothes, cigarettes, personal hygiene supplies, eating out on occasion, household goods like trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper...I am sure you get the idea.

Every dollar counts.

I only use her as an example. There are many more citizens in my county that are living under similar circumstances.

A higher rate for water in Leslie County may likely mean a higher rate for our wastewater service too because the amount of water used determines the wastewater rate.

I am not writing to complain about the increase in the rate, but that the system of having a minimum bill is especially unfair to low-income citizens that use less than 2,000 gallons per month.

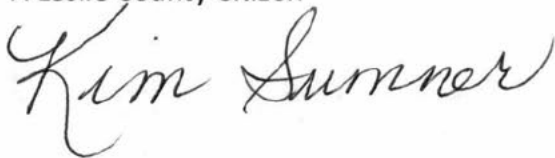
But is this system fair to any resident, low-income or otherwise?

Rather than basing the rate on the actual usage, the first 2,000 gallons has a set fee of 20.24. Therefore, if a resident uses only 1,000 gallons, they must pay the same as someone that used 2,000 gallons. \$1.00 per gallon **up to** 2,000 gallons, not **the first** 2,000 gallons, would be fair.

If the new rates are approved, I submit that residents be charged for only the number of gallons used **up to 2,000**. This would calculate somewhere around \$1.72 per gallon.

Sincerely,

A Leslie County Citizen

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Sumner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Kim Sumner