Kirby Smith III 424 Englewood Rd. Middlesboro, KY 40965 RECEIVED

JUN 1 0 2022

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

June 7, 2022

Public Service Commission 211 Sower Boulevard P.O. Box 615 Frankfort, KY 40603

Re: Water rate increase Middlesboro, KY

Dear Sir,

I am writing to protest the approximately 32% increase in our water rates being proposed on the citizens of Middlesboro by the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky.

I see no justification for this amount of increase to be imposed on the residence of our town. There have been no improvements, or change in the processing, distribution or quality of our water that I am aware of. I am cognit of the consumer price index increases as well as the current inflation rate, but these forces do not justify a 32% increase.

Considering that this area of Kentucky is experiencing a high unemployment, low wages, business closings, declining population, and a high poverty rate, a rate increase of this magnitude would impose a heavy burden on our citizens.

Please consider denying this increase, It would only contribute to more poverty, more declining population, and more business closings.

Sincerely,

Kirby Smith, III