(ase #2008-0563

3/30/2009

KY Public Service Commission 211 Sowers Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the water rate increase proposed by the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky that will impact the citizens of Clinton, KY. I am one of those citizens that will be directly affected by the rate increase, and I am strongly opposing the percentage amount that has been presented to our citizens. In fact, I began a petition that was placed throughout the city in hopes of letting everyone have a chance to sign against what our citizens know will be the demise of what is left of our city.

When I use the term "city," I use it very loosely. Clinton is far from being a city. It is a town. We have only one stop light, and I bet you can't even clock a mile from one city limit sign to the other when you are passing through! You would be lucky if you could. But we are very proud of where we live, those of us who try to pride ourselves and instill that dignity into our children. We have very little industry in our town. Two nursing homes, two convenient marts, a grocery, a Dollar General Store, a few family owned restaurants, and the local school system are the basic employers in the town. The majority of the residents are on fixed incomes such as SSI or Disability. Others, such as myself, have to seek employment in other counties close by. I am afraid that if the utilities (such as water, electric, and gas) continue to increase, citizens will be forced to move out of our town in hopes of sustaining a somewhat "just getting by" lifestyle. There are so many now that are out of work, depending on state subsidy and our local Mission House for extra food, cheaper clothing, and even handouts to sustain their families during such tough economic times that the USA is facing.

I do understand that major businesses have to maintain themselves, too. I do not understand, however, the logistics behind doubling the water rates in such a small town where the citizens have such a minimal average annual household income compared to those in other cities. This calculation is doomed from the start. There will be more cut offs than ever before in our town. People simply cannot afford it. The percentage is just too high. When an employee gets a raise at his/her company, they do not get a whopping 50%! They are lucky if they get 7-10%. SSI and Disability recipients did not receive even that big of a raise last year!

The basics of this equation are simple. Higher rates + low income=disaster! The citizens deserve to at least be given the opportunity to speak their opinion about this rate increase. I am asking that you please consider placing this increase on hold until your commission can address the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky and the citizens of Clinton, KY. I trust that your Commission will do what is in the best interest of the citizens of KY.

I have enclosed copies of a letter that I have received and also the petition signatures that have been collected over the past few weeks. I know that this is not all of the citizens of the town, but I hold a full-time job and have three school aged children and have not been able to campaign as much as I would have liked to on this issue. I do know that there are many concerned citizens about what their futures hold, and the majority of that future depends on the outcome of this rate increase.

I appreciate your time and hope you appreciate the efforts made by the citizens of Clinton, KY. We desperately need your help. Please consider our plea.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Waggoner

Rebecca Waggoner 321 Mayfield Rd. Clinton, KY 42031 (270) 653-0500

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