

Commonwealth of Kentucky

702 CAPITAL AVENUE
CAPITOL ANNEX 242
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
502-564-2450



17TH SENATE DISTRICT
GRANT, KENTON AND SCOTT COUNTIES
damon.thayer@irc.ky.gov
MESSAGE LINE 800-372-7181

DAMON THAYER
MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2020

**PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION**

December 10, 2020

Kentucky Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615

Subject: Case# 2020-00290.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of my constituents in Scott County regarding the acquisition of Delaplain by Bluegrass Water. A rate increase proposal has been made that would incur a rate increase from \$12.50 per month to \$96.14 per month. To be clear, that would be rate increase of 669.1%.

Kentucky Revised Statute 278.030 (1) requires that utilities may collect and receive "fair, just, and reasonable rates for the services rendered." While I do not question the quality of service rendered by Bluegrass Water, this type of proposed rate increase is exactly what KRS 278 was implemented to protect consumers from in the future.

Even during normal economic times, a 669.1% rate increase is unreasonable. That is especially true amidst a global health pandemic where thousands of Kentuckians have been laid off or have lost their job and many have yet to receive their first unemployment check. Furthermore, parents who are fortunate to still be employed are struggling to balance the challenges of virtual learning as schools remain closed, and meeting their responsibilities as an employee.

It is worth noting that less than a month ago, there was a moratorium suspending the disconnections of utility services. This was put in place because those financially impacted by COVID-19 may be unable to make their payments. While that moratorium is no longer in effect, the financial challenges of residents still exist. Any rate increase should be fair, just, reasonable and considerate of the moment at hand.

Kentucky Public Service Commission

Page 2

December 10, 2020

I request that the Public Service Commission deny this rate increase proposal. Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns. They echo those of my constituents in Scott County, part of the 17th Senate District in which I represent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damon Thayer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Damon Thayer
State Senator

DT:DI:PR