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January 4, 2026

Kentucky Public Service Commission:

I am writing to formally oppose the requested sewer rate increase by Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, LLC in **Case No. 2025-00354**.

I am a resident of the Marshall Ridge Subdivision in West Paducah, Kentucky, residing at 135 Iva Court.

My sewer rates have risen dramatically from approximately \$15 monthly when Bluegrass Water Utility took control of the sewerage system to the currently requested \$114 per month. This increase is excessive and does not reflect the level of service provided or the cost of living in our area. This requested increase (46.6%) certainly does not reflect the 2.8% cost of living allowance I just received on my Social Security retirement.

Key concerns I have are as follows:

- I see words such as "fair and reasonable" being used. KRS 278.030 permits a utility to require customers to pay "fair, just and reasonable rates" for the utilities services. I see nothing in this request for an increase in my sewer rates that would indicate the request meets any standard for being fair or reasonable at the current time.
- One should not need to read hundreds of pages of submitted documents to determine what, if anything, has been done to the Marshall Ridge sewer system.
- Residents have faced repeated rate increases every 18-24 months, forcing us to continually fight for affordable rates.
- Despite previous hikes, there is little evidence of promised infrastructure repairs. Issues like foul sewer odors and rare utility truck visits persist.
- The proposed \$114 monthly bill is unaffordable for many, especially seniors and families on fixed incomes. Meanwhile, corporate overhead appears to be growing.
- Before any further rate hikes are approved, there must be transparency and an independent audit of how previous rate increase revenues were spent.
- We receive no annual report as to what has been completed with the Marshall Ridge system.

We are a captive audience with no alternative for sewer service. I respectfully request that you deny the proposed increase and demand a full, independent audit before considering any further rate adjustments.

Thank you for your time in working to determine a fair, just and reasonable settlement in this case.



Don Barger
135 Iva Ct
West Paducah KY 42086