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PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Case No. 2026-00227

Dear Kentucky Public Service Commission,

I am writing as a Breathitt County Water District customer to strongly oppose the proposed 13.19% increase in our water rates.

At what point is enough enough?

Since January our water bill has already gone up substantially. My household's bill used to be around \$36 a month. Since Case No. 2025-00234 passed, it is now around \$47, and we are being asked to accept another increase that would take the charge for the first 2,000 gallons to \$53.46.

That means what was once a roughly \$36 monthly bill would be approaching \$54. That is nearly a 50% increase in the cost of this basic necessity.

People in Breathitt County are struggling. People in this community do not have unlimited money sitting around to absorb increases like this. Groceries cost more. Electric bills cost more. Gas costs more. Insurance costs more. Housing costs more. It seems like every month there is another bill that has gone up, and now we are being asked to pay even more for something that nobody can simply choose to go without.

Water is not a luxury. We need it to drink, cook, bathe, wash our clothes and raise our families. Customers cannot simply decide not to use water because the price has become too high.

What makes this even more frustrating is the quality of the water we receive. Our tap water is not suitable for drinking without filtering. That means we have another expense on top of the water bill. We have to purchase water filters and replace them often since the water quality is so poor, or we have to buy expensive bottled drinking water.

We are paying for the water, and then we are paying again to make that water safe to drink. That is a hard thing to accept when customers are being asked to pay more and more for the service.

I understand that the water district has expenses. I understand that infrastructure, employees, maintenance and purchasing water all cost money. But there are real people on the other side of these bills, and there is a limit to what families can afford.

A few dollars might not sound like much to someone looking at a spreadsheet. But when you are sitting at your kitchen table trying to make sure the mortgage, electric bill, groceries, insurance, gas and every other necessity are covered, another monthly increase matters.

Please carefully examine:

How much Breathitt County customers' rates have already increased;

The cumulative effect of those increases on local families;

Whether another increase of this size is truly necessary;

Whether the district has explored every reasonable alternative before placing another burden on customers;

The additional expenses customers face when they purchase filtration systems, replacement filters or bottled water; and

Whether the proposed rate is affordable for the people who live in this community.

I am not asking the Commission to ignore the financial needs of the water district. I am asking the Commission to also recognize the financial needs of the people who fund that district every month.

I respectfully ask the Kentucky Public Service Commission to reject the proposed rate increase, or at minimum require the district to provide a thorough justification for another increase and consider alternatives that would place less financial burden on Breathitt County customers.

We deserve affordable water.

Thank you for considering the concerns of Breathitt County water customers.

Sincerely,

Maura Turner

Breathitt County, Kentucky