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September 25, 2026

Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC)

P.O. Box 615

Frankfort, Kentucky

RE: Case No. 2026-00227

Dear Sir:

I have been a residential customer of the Breathitt County Water District (BCWD) for the past 10 years. During that time, the base rate has increased from \$24.88 to \$47.23. This is a staggering 90% increase. I strongly oppose another increase — specifically the one requested by the BCWD in their application submitted August 31, 2026 — as it imposes a financial burden not only for me, but more significantly for many others in my county.

Presently the water district has more than enough income to cover the cost of running the system and making repairs. The water district levied an increase in 2023 and another over a three-year period spanning 2024 to 2026 (Case No. 2022-00136). This resulted in a very significant jump in revenue for the water district. Board members in their last meeting on September 21st all agreed that the present revenue is more than sufficient to meet their

operational expenses. In fact, they have over \$95,000 in reserve for emergency repairs of existing lines. Given this robust financial surplus, any additional rate burden on customers is entirely unwarranted.

The combined increase in water rates from 2023 to 2026 has outpaced income growth for customers on fixed incomes. Transfer payments — such as retirement benefits, Social Security, disability, and SNAP — form the backbone of personal income in a coalfield county like Breathitt County. Cost-of-living for those on fixed incomes cannot keep with today's surges in electricity, gasoline, water rates, etc. Our seniors, low-income families, and disabled residents are being financially devastated.

Continuous increases in water rates will drive customers away. Many local residents are already considering reverting to older wells or drilling new ones. Some are even talking about moving out of the county. BCWD claims they need more customers to offset costs, but raising rates is completely counterproductive to maintaining their financial stability.

I am opposed to the additional proposed water rate increase for the reasons outline above and others too numerous to include here. I respectfully request the PSC deny this application and protect struggling people.

Sincerely,
Glenda Fugate