

Collin Roehner

From: Joann Parsons
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #160101 - correspondence
Attachments: 2017-01-11, Ltr frm Hughes.pdf

Please place the attached in Docket Correspondence, Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket Nos. 150269 & 160101.

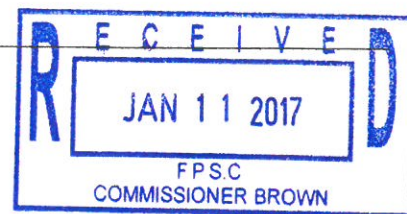
Thank you.

Joann

Public Service Commission

November , 2016

Chairman Julie Brown
Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oaks Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399 -0850



RE: Docket No. 150269 and Docket No. 160101

Dear Madam Chairwoman Julie Brown,

I am a Summertree resident asking you to support our cause to work the Governor and our Florida State Legislators to review and modify outdated statutes related to Water/Wastewater Utilities.

The Pasco/UIF Summertree Bulk Water Agreement was signed on August 9, 2016. Our Task-force needed to take two trips to Tallahassee for two PSC Conference Agendas (September 13 and October 11) to address the Commission regarding UIF's rate demands in paragraph G, Page 10 of the Bulk Water Agreement (Docket No. 150269). UIF stated they would not purchase water services from Pasco until the PSC set rates that they requested, basically holding our interconnect process hostage.

Just 30 days later, under Docket No. 160101, Summertree was facing yet another rate increase. When Pasco Utilities confirmed that there were no planned increases in bulk wastewater rates, our Task-force returned to Tallahassee for the PSC Conference Agenda on November 1, 2016. The PSC Commissioners approved UIF's requested **Interim Rate increases** for a total of 27.68% which means that Summertree residents will pay **\$82.61/3,000 gallons/month**. The Florida statutes allow UTILITIES to reap a 10% Return on Equity regardless of their product or service quality. Once the interconnect is completed, Summertree will be a pass-through for water and wastewater; basically, UIF will be our landlord.

I am outraged that outdated statutes allow UTILITIES to function under state Return on Equity guarantees resulting in unearned profits. This oversight has evolved into a serious problem for Florida residents across the state. UIF is consolidating 10 counties, 44 systems and 66,000 consumers. I believe that Summertree's problem is just the tip of the iceberg. UIF should not be subsidized by their customers and pay ever increasing rates for water/wastewater services they do not receive!

Please be aware that we plan to raise awareness to help end the injustices to consumers under the outdated Florida statutes regulating Water/Wastewater Utilities. Without legislative intervention Utilities, Inc. of Florida will continue to take advantage of antiquated utility statutes (creating a utility welfare system) which will financially cripple me and the other 65,999 residents under your watch. We believe that legislative changes will help the Commission and Staff to expand your discretionary authority to further protect the Florida residents.

Sincerely,

Signature:

Robert M. Hughes, II

Print Name:

ROBERT M. HUGHES, II

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