

Ashley Quick

From: Ellen Plendl
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 1:27 PM
To: Consumer Correspondence
Subject: Docket 150269-WS
Attachments: FW Help Save Summertree from Utilities Inc., Corporate Culture on another proposed Rate Increase; robida-lee-response.pdf

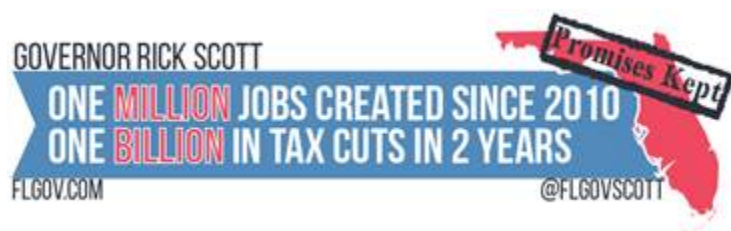
See attached customer correspondence and PSC reply for correspondence side of Docket 150269-WS.

Ashley Quick

From: Davis, Warren <Warren.Davis@eog.MyFlorida.com>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 12:48 PM
To: Ellen Plendl
Cc: Sunburst
Subject: FW: Help Save Summertree from Utilities Inc., Corporate Culture on another proposed Rate Increase
Attachments: My name is Lee Robida and my address is 11210 Merganser Way New Port Richey.docx

Can PSC respond?

Warren Davis
Office of Citizen Services
Executive Office of the Governor



From: Lee Robida [<mailto:leerobida@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2016 12:24 PM
To: Governor Rick Scott <GovernorRick.Scott@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: Help Save Summertree from Utilities Inc., Corporate Culture on another proposed Rate Increase

Dear Governor Scott,

I am writing on behalf of our Summertree community to ask for your intervention in our ongoing twenty five year battle with Utilities Inc. of Florida. Our concerns surround the very poor secondary quality water issues as well as continuous rate increase requests.

As of December 30, 2015, we the citizens of Summertree, New Port Richey, Florida have once again started to speak out and unite against another proposed rate increase.

FPSC Docket # 150269 is a two phase rate increase with the final rate of our water at \$6.58 per thousand gallons. This is in addition to the double sewer rate (based upon water consumption) and also service fees for residential water service and sewer service amounting to \$25.43.

On December 7, 1992, FPSC Docket Order #25821, UIF imposed their first rate increase and purchased the property. We have fought with Utilities Inc. over the continuing poor secondary water quality issues all these years.

At present, we the residents of Summertree are in full agreement for an Interconnect with Pasco County Utilities to improve water quality that will result in better taste, color and smell of our potable water.

But with the continued monopolistic ways of Utilities Inc. and its Corporate Culture to seek more and more rate increases from this 55+ senior community, we cannot abide in this Corporate Ideology of seeking more rate increase on the backs of the residents and ratepayers, while this company takes more of our senior and fixed income dollars out of our community in Pasco County.

It is my fear that with the constant requests for rate increases, soon our community will be the one that falls victim to a decline in our property values and loss of general tax revenue for our county. Our surrounding neighborhoods pay a much lower water and sewer rate to Pasco County, while we pay a much higher rate since Utilities Inc. is a private company. This imbalance will soon affect home sales and property values in Summertree.

We are not asking for a hand out from government, but a helping hand to rid Summertree of this Corporate culture of Utilities Inc. who has burdened the senior residents , Summertree and Pasco County with for too many years.

Please, Governor Scott, support your fellow Floridians, by speaking to the Commissioners at the Florida Public Service Commission and encourage them to vote NO on yet another rate increase with Utilities Inc., and to recommend that Utilities Inc., for its own best interest, SELL the water and sewer rights TO PASCO COUNTY.

Thank you for your time and attention to this pressing issue.

Regards

Lee Robida
Summertree Water Alliance Taskforce Member
New Port Richey, Florida

Encl:

1. LSR Protest speech & UIF facts for FPSC hearing held 4/12/16 at Summertree NPR, FL
2. Link to FPSC document web site for review of consumer comments filed by Summertree residents

<http://www.floridapsc.com/ClerkOffice/DocketFiling?docket=150269>

My name is Lee Robida

Docket # 150269-WS

I reside in Summertree at, 11210 Merganser Way New Port Richey, Florida.

PART ONE

I'm expressing my view of the Corporate Culture of Utilities Inc., via the QUOTED Words of John Hoy, as published in Truth Out.org.

Titled: Private Water Industry Says Water Bills "Have to Go Up" as written *By Aaron Cantú*, May 14, 2015 . ⁽¹⁾

Mr. Cantu was present at the Southeast Conference of the National Association of Water Companies, meeting held on April 29-30 2015 in Charleston SC

NAWC is the voice of the private water industry

" QUOTE"

John Hoy, president of Utilities Inc. of Florida, was more blunt.

"What it comes down to is, how do we educate, and prep customers for understanding what the value of water is?" Hoy said. "There is the belief that water should be cheap. We are fighting the perception that anything over \$30 a month is a lot. [Water] continues to be the lowest utility bill. We have to go up for that. We have to do more to change belief that we can keep water rates down for all the needs coming."

"There's a new movement out there gaining steam that's fighting privatization," said John Hoy of Utilities Inc. "That anything our sector does is bad, that it should be *providing* water. We are gearing up and are ready to get the real message across." END QUOTE.

PART TWO

Summertree is not alone in this battle with Utilities Inc., which is located in 15 States.

The following three communities and or residents, either have or still may be in the process of, protesting and rallying against Utilities Inc., over Unsatisfactory Water & Sewer Quality, and or Unsatisfactory Rates.

Exhibit (A)

FLUSH UI ⁽²⁾ via (Facebook) Tega Cay, SC. Twenty seven (27) spilled sewer issues for the community. With the United States EPA having to intervene with the issuing of a Notice of Violation to Utilities Inc.,⁽⁷⁾ (dba Tega Cay Water Services' Wastewater Collection and Transmission System) As well as the city of Tega Cay, having to purchase from UI the sewer operations in 2014.

Exhibit (B)

Ingram Estates Homeowners Association ⁽³⁾ - Abita Springs, Louisiana

April 11, 2016: Residents are voicing their concerns at the Louisiana PSC public hearings, over the upcoming vote that the Louisiana PSC will vote on, to make Utilities Inc, of Louisiana, latest rate increase, docket # U-33595 permanent. ⁽⁴⁾

As Quoted by a posting on their community Facebook page:

""We were all hit with water and waste water charge increases when we received correspondence from Utilities, Inc. of Louisiana, our provider, back in mid-July of 2015. Price increases are one thing, but having your bills for a certain service doubled----or in some cases----tripled, raises some flags. The correspondence gave us the new rates, claiming it was for upgrading of their systems to bring us better service""

Exhibit (C)

Utilities Inc., (dba Carolina Water Service) Charlotte NC

Customers protesting higher charges on their services with CWS, and filing protest with the North Carolina Utilities Commission:

Kevin Tate Docket # W-354-sub 347 // seeking to collect from customer \$763.00 for broken meter . (5)

William & Suzanne Foster: Docket # W-354-sub 348 // seeking to collect from customer charges that customer used over 33,000 gallons of water for one period. (6)

CLOSING Statement:

It's not just Summertree residents and customers, fighting, for better quality water at better rates. It's customers and ratepayers, networking together nationwide, fighting Utilities Inc., CORPORATE CULTURE.

Footnotes:

(1) <http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/30724-exclusive-dispatch-private-water-industry-says-water-bills-have-to-go-up>

(2) <https://www.facebook.com/FlushUI/?fref=ts>

(3) <https://www.facebook.com/IngramEstatesHoa/> (985) 373-1221 information@ingramestates.com (e-mail)

(4) <http://lpscstar.louisiana.gov/star/portal/lpsc/page/Orders/portal.aspx>

<http://lpscstar.louisiana.gov/star/portal/lpsc/PSC/DocketDetails.aspx?DocketId=ab70fc0e-3e64-44e7-812a-14b2272359ec>

(5) <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/docket-docs/PSC/DocketDetails.aspx>

(6) <http://starw1.ncuc.net/NCUC/portal/ncuc/page/docket-docs/PSC/DocketDetails.aspx>

(7) <https://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/6FAD22BDBBA1BA0485257C85005CD361>

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RONALD A. BRISÉ
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STATE OF FLORIDA



OFFICE OF
CONSUMER ASSISTANCE & OUTREACH
CYNTHIA L. MUIR
DIRECTOR
(850) 413-6482

Public Service Commission

April 25, 2016

Mr. Lee Robida
11210 Merganser Way
New Port Richey, FL 34654

RE: FPSC Inquiry Number 1210941C

Dear Mr. Robida:

The Governor's Office of Citizen Services forwarded a copy of your correspondence regarding Utilities, Inc. of Florida to the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC). The FPSC regulates investor-owned electric, and natural gas utilities throughout the state, and investor-owned water and wastewater utilities in those counties which have opted to transfer jurisdiction to the FPSC. The FPSC has authority in the telephone industry which is limited to the Lifeline Assistance Program, Florida Relay Service, and pay telephone service. We appreciate the opportunity to assist you.

You expressed a concern about Utilities, Inc. of Florida's application for limited proceeding water rate increase in Pasco County. We will add your comments to the correspondence side of Docket No. 150269-WS regarding the application.

You also expressed a concern about water quality. The FPSC's authority does not extend to water quality. You may contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to file your inquiry about water quality, by using the following information:

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Citizen Services
3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS49
Tallahassee, FL 32399**

**Telephone: 850-245-2118
Facsimile: 850-245-2128**

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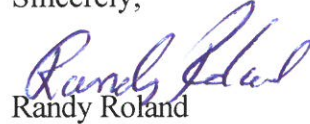
PSC Website: <http://www.floridapsc.com>

Internet E-mail: contact@psc.state.fl.us

Mr. Lee Robida
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If you have any questions or concerns please contact Ellen Plendl at 1-800-342-3552 or by fax at 1-800-511-0809.

Sincerely,



Randy Roland
Regulatory Program Administrator
Office of Consumer Assistance & Outreach

RR:mep