

April 16, 1998

Director,
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard,
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

971463-215

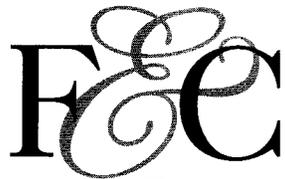
To Whom It May Concern:

I have received the notice that the local water company, Florida Cities Water, is attempting to get approval for a rate hike. According to the notice, the reason is to recoup the cost of legal fees in the case against them by The United States, which was dismissed.

I am writing you this letter as a business owner who feels that Fla Cities Water, like other businesses should not be allowed to raise their rates due to standard business activity. Especially since they are a utility company with no competition to keep their rates competitive and since they will not suddenly lower the rates once the so called legal expenses are paid.

There have been numerous occasions when my company has had to employ legal means to collect unpaid bills and other times when we have had to go to court to defend our position regarding monies we owed. In all the cases, win or lose, our charges to our clients did not go up.

ACK _____
 AFA _____
 APP ~~_____ If they feel that the government keeps their prices too low to absorb~~
 CAF ~~_____ the costs. And you ultimately feel that they should be allowed to~~
 CMU ~~_____ recoup their loses, they should assess, under your scrutiny, a small~~
 CTR ~~_____ monthly 'temporary' fee. Once the legitimate legal costs were paid~~
 EAG ~~_____ the fee should be eliminated, not allowed to go on to build a defense~~
 LEG ~~_____ chest filled with funds.~~
 LIN _____
 OPC _____
 RCH _____
 SEC ✓ *Gary M. Firestone*
 WAS _____
 OTH _____



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