

Collin Roehner

From: Office of Commissioner Brown
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 11:09 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: FW: Utilities Inc. Summertree Water Syatem
Attachments: Summertree PSC Letter 4.28.17.pdf

Please place the attached in Docket Correspondence, Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 160101-WS.

Thank you.

From: Ochs, Jared [<mailto:Jared.Ochs@myfloridahouse.gov>]
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 10:03 AM
To: 'Flip Mellinger'; Office of Commissioner Brown; 'Mary.Yeargan@dep.state.fl.us'
Cc: Mike Moore; Mike Wells; Ron Oakley; Kathryn Starkey; Jack Mariano; Michele Baker; Jeffrey Steinsnyder; 'Mike Fasano'; 'Ann Marie Ryan'; Simpson, Wilton; Perrin, Rachel; Sayler, Erik; Braulio Baez; Mark Futrell; 'Brian Armstrong'; Michael J. Carballa; Robert G. Marin; 'Patrick Flynn'; John Hoy; 'kevin.cleary@dep.state.fl.us'; 'Ralph Lair'
Subject: RE: Utilities Inc. Summertree Water Syatem

Commissioner Brown,

Please see the attached letter from Majority Leader Simpson and Speaker Corcoran.

Jared M. Ochs
Office of the Speaker
850-717-5000

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



Wilton Simpson
Majority Leader



Richard Corcoran
*Speaker of the House of
Representatives*

April 28, 2017

Julie Brown, Chair
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: 160101-WS-Application for increase in water and wastewater rates in Charlotte, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Seminole Counties by Utilities, Inc. of Florida.

Dear Chairman Brown:

Thank you for your commitment to working to solve water quality issues within the Summertree community located in Pasco County.

As you know, Utilities, Inc. of Florida (UIF) recently discontinued producing its own water and has not provided wastewater services to this community for many years. Utility services are now provided by Pasco County Utilities (PCU) due to the inability of UIF to perform the most basic and perfunctory functions expected of a regulated utility company. The remaining responsibility of UIF is to properly maintain the water distribution system and wastewater collection system within Summertree. Knowing this inability to provide satisfactory water service, our offices and all stakeholders involved, including the Public Service Commission (PSC), believed interconnecting Summertree with PCU would alleviate many water quality issues residents have been forced to endure for years.

It is our understanding PCU has notified the PSC of new water issues recently emerging, which have caused residents much consternation. Upon being notified of these new concerns, our offices have proactively worked with the PCU and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to begin identifying the cause so the utility may quickly implement a solution. We are grateful the FDEP has assured us their district staff is committed to working with all stakeholders to solve this issue. While these efforts continue, we respectfully request the PSC take the following actions until quality of service issues have been resolved:

1. Maintain the prior unsatisfactory finding pertaining to water quality standards within Summertree and a penalty of one hundred (100) basis point reduction to its return on equity
2. Order and compel all stakeholders involved to work cooperatively and collaboratively to expediently solve these issues

3. Open a new docket to investigate and resolve these new water issues

Make no mistake about it, we are committed to assisting all stakeholders ensure these residents are provided quality water at affordable rates. We look forward to continually working with the PSC to achieve these common goals, and we thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Wilton Simpson
Majority Leader



Richard Corcoran
Speaker

cc: Public Service Commissioner Patronis
Public Service Commissioner Graham
Public Service Commissioner Brisé
Public Service Commissioner Polmann
Baulio Baez, Executive Director, Florida Public Service Commission
John Tuitt, Deputy Secretary for Regulatory, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Flip Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator, Pasco County Utilities