

Robert & Laura Werner
2525 Snowy Plover Drive
Lakeland FL 33810

February 26, 2021

DKT #: 20200139

Florida Public Service Commission
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee FL 32399-0850

As residents of Cypress Lakes Resort in Lakeland FL, we have seen our Utilities Inc. bill triple during our residency. Specifically the wastewater costs are the target in this latest increase.

In 2010, an expansion of our wastewater treatment system was necessary to accommodate approximately 120 additional homes in our community. Without notification to Property Management/Owners, Utilities Inc. made that upgrade to nearly \$1,000,000. This amount was placed on all Cypress Lakes Resort residents by action of the Public Service Commission. That bill has been paid! There has been no budgetary request since 2010 for our wastewater treatment plant.

We are now faced with another increase of an additional 30% in rates through request by Utilities Inc. This requested increase is to pay for **four other communities'** sewer facilities. One of those systems is 50+ years old and is under court order to upgrade. Paying for their capital expenditure disenfranchises our residents, places an unfair burden on them economically, and ties the hands of Cypress Lakes Property Management to remain competitive in Polk County. Cypress Lakes Resort Community is the **ONLY** one in Polk County served by Utilities Inc.

We strongly request that the Public Service Commission deny the request for a rate increase for Cypress Lakes Resort and have it be assessed to those communities benefitting from the proposed \$26,000,000+ in capital expenditures.

Sincerely,



Robert Werner / Laura Werner

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Robert + Laura Werner
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Lakeland FL 33810

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