

2428 Snowy Plover Drive
Lakeland, FL 33810
March 1, 2021

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

DKT #: 20200139

Dear Sirs,

As a resident of the Cypress lakes 55+ community in Lakeland, I have continued to see my Utilities, Inc. bill increase without warning. For example, our wastewater treatment facility/system was expanded in order to accommodate additional homes in the community. However, without any advance notice to the Property Owner/Management, Utilities, Inc. made the upgrade to the tune of nearly \$1,000,000 and unilaterally leveled the bill on Cypress Lakes residents. Fortunately, the residents were able to pay off that bill and have not had to face another budgetary request since 2010 for our wastewater treatment plant.

However, events from before are now manifesting themselves again. The residents of Cypress Lakes are now faced with an additional 30% rate increase through a request of Utilities, Inc. What's worse is that this increase is to cover costs to upgrade sewer facilities at other communities in different counties, not those at Cypress Lakes. Apparently, some of those systems are 50+ years old and are under court order to upgrade. Forcing Cypress Lakes homeowners and residents to pay for these capital expenditures disenfranchises us, places an unfair economic burden on us and ties the hands of Cypress Lakes Property Management to remain a competitive 55+ community in Polk County. It should also be noted that Cypress Lakes is the ONLY community in Polk County served by Utilities, Inc.

As such, I request that the Public Service Commission deny the 30% rate increase by Utilities, Inc, as it impacts Cypress Lakes, and have it assessed to only those communities benefitting from the proposed \$26,000,000+ in capital expenditures.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Fitzgerald Jr.

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R. Fitzgerald Jr
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Lakeland, FL 33810

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