



Mr. Frederick R. Shenk
287 Beechnut Dr.
North Conway, NH 03860

DW08-052

July 22, 2008

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street - Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Birch Hill Water District
North Conway



Gentlemen,

My wife and I are full time residents of Birch Hill.

First, I would like to say that we feel that Pittsfield Aqueduct has done a good job of fixing various problems here in Birch Hill and the several staff members we have met as they worked here have been very nice and helpfull.

We feel there is no question that there needs to be an increase in water usage charges for all that has been accomplished and for all that still needs to be done. However, the proposed rate as outlined in Pittsfield's letter of May 30th, is quite unreasonable, particularly for the average homeowner. I suspect it is more than quite a few folks will be able to pay. Also, it is coming at a time of great economic difficulty for most people.

Not the least of our concerns is the impact on home values. One can easily visualize the following conversation between a seller and a buyer: "Your price seems reasonable, now what about utilities?" "Well, all are about average, but, I must confess our water bill is around \$100.- per month." "One hundred a month??? It has been nice meeting you and good luck in selling your house!".

I wonder if any alternative forms of payment have been considered? Rather than this huge increase that will go on forever, could there be a smaller, more reasonable monthly increase, together with, for example, a one time assessment to be paid on an annual basis over, say, four or five years? This

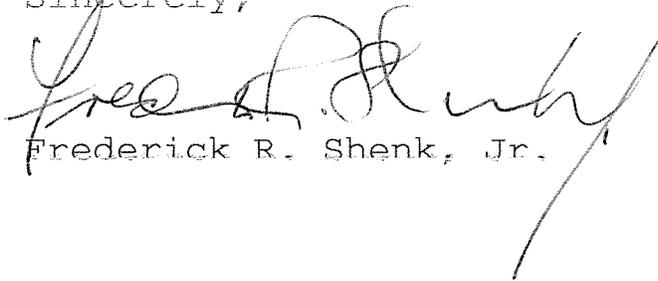
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could have a positive effect on Pittsfield's long term debt as well as get homeowners out from under a forever huge water monthly payment. It would also have a positive property value effect once the assessment period is completed.

It seems to us that there has to be a better solution than the one proposed in Pittsfield's May 30th letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred R. Shenk, Jr.", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then curves back down.

Frederick R. Shenk, Jr.