

TO: New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
FROM: Residents of Lake Ossipee Village, Freedom, New Hampshire
RE: Lakes Region Water Company, Request for Rate Increase, DW 15-209
Date: October 8, 2015

Dear Commissioners Honigberg, Scott and Bailey,

It is with great concern that we, the undersigned residents of Lake Ossipee Village, located in Freedom, New Hampshire, write to express our extreme opposition to the request for a rate increase from Lakes Region Water Company.

Lake Region Water Company purchased our water system in 2004. At that time we were paying \$140.00 a year for water.

In 2006 our yearly cost for water was increased to \$302.40, a 116% increase. In PUC order, 24,692, the PUC approved a rate increase of 118.67%, and further ordered that Lakes Region Water install meters in Lake Ossipee Village. We have paid that increase, but meters have never been installed.

In 2008, in PUC order 24,925, an increase was approved bringing our rate to \$506.68, a 67% increase. This rate increase request was to cover costs incurred by Lakes Region Water for work to be completed in Moultonborough, Ossipee, Wolfeboro, and Waterville, Valley.

In PUC order 25,391, in 2012, our rate was increased again to \$589.36, another 16%. This increase was meant to cover deficiencies in general management of Lakes Region Water.

During that same time frame we have had six additional surcharges for cost recovery applied to our bills.

Lakes Region Water comes to you now to request another rate increase, which would in effect raise our yearly cost for water by an additional 38.18%, amounting to a yearly cost of \$814.38. This rate increase is for work to be completed in a system in Ossipee, New Hampshire, and for the purchase of property in Ossipee.

This latest request for a rate increase would constitute an overall rate increase since 2006 of 481.7%.

In that time, Lakes Region water has maintained our water system, and provided general repairs. To our knowledge, no significant improvements have been made to our system.

It is our strong belief that over the years we have paid rate increase to cover work completed in other water systems, to bail Lakes Region Water out of financial difficulty due to mismanagement, and have not been provided service previously ordered by the PUC to install meters.

It is therefore very objectionable to us that Lakes Region Water be allowed to raise the water rates again. Unlike other utilities, whose prices fluctuate, the cost of water does not. The only change is to the cost of system maintenance, and general operating costs of the managing company, which we find suspect. Please consider our serious objection to this request for another rate increase.

Thank you.

