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Tennessee Public Utility Commission

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Shown below is the article that I provided to the Knoxville News Sentinel and that was published on October 15, 2017 in support of the Tennessee Water Services Inc. proposed surcharge.

Our family lost our cabin in Chalet Village North in the November, 2016 wildfires. We support the surcharge proposed by Tennessee Water Services, Inc (TWS)

First of all, TWS is a small private water provider (not a municipal provider) that served 587 customers before the wildfire. After the fire, only 57 customers continued service and more recently 76 customers have restarted service. Around 130 active customers and 440 inactive customers received a letter concerning the surcharge.

For inactive customers, the charge would be \$24.81 per month and for active customers, the average monthly bill would increase from \$58.60 to \$69.15 a month. TWS's net operating loss for the 2017 fiscal year is projected to be \$72,201 and needed repairs to the infrastructure will be around \$300,000. The surcharge is expected to yield around \$220,000 so the customers are only being requested to provide a portion of the needed repair costs. We feel the surcharge is necessary to complete the extraordinary repairs necessitated by the wildfire.

Having a continuous supply of potable water is essential to the development of new homes and the continued marketability of the undeveloped lots. Without potable water, lenders would not approve a mortgage loan and digging individual wells would require expensive initial costs and continued maintenance costs. A working community water system is essential to owners in CVN. It seems shortsighted to oppose an 18 month surcharge that would total less than \$450 for an inactive lot owner and less than \$200 for active customers based on the average monthly bill increase. The wildfire was an extraordinary event and we feel that it would be in the best interest of CVN owners to step up and help restore the water system.

I am submitting this in support of the surcharge for the October 23, 2017 hearing.

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Sandra Cox Tuck