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From: Contact TPUC

To: Ectory R. Lawless

 Subject:
 FW: [EXTERNAL] Docket No. 24-00044

 Date:
 Thursday, January 23, 2025 9:53:02 AM

From: Malinda Rice

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2025 2:06 PM **To:** Contact TPUC <Contact.TPUC@tn.gov> **Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Docket No. 24-00044

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## 01/22/2025

Tennessee Public Utility Commission 502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor Nashville, TN 37243-0001

Subject: Opposition to Limestone Water Utility's Proposed Rate Increase (Docket No. 24-00044)

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rate increase by Limestone Water Utility Operating Company, LLC, as detailed in Docket No. 24-00044. As a resident affected by this potential change, I am deeply concerned about the financial burden this increase would impose on our community.

Upon reviewing water rates in neighboring communities, I found that the City of Savannah, Tennessee, charges residential customers inside the city limits a minimum fee of \$12.07 and \$3.64 per 1,000 gallons. For customers outside the city, the minimum fee is \$24.14 with a rate of \$5.11 per 1,000 gallons. Similarly, the First Utility District of Hardin County, serving areas like Counce, Tennessee, has competitive rates that are significantly lower than those proposed by Limestone Water Utility.

According to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, the average cost for 5,000 gallons of water statewide is approximately \$35.06. The rates proposed by Limestone Water Utility far exceed this average, placing an undue financial strain on residents.

I respectfully request that the Tennessee Public Utility Commission thoroughly investigate the justification for such a substantial rate increase. It is imperative that Limestone Water Utility provides a transparent and detailed explanation for their inability to offer rates comparable to those in surrounding communities.

Without a clear and compelling rationale, approving this rate increase would be unjust to the residents who rely on this essential service.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I urge the Commission to deny the proposed rate increase and protect consumers from unwarranted financial hardship.

Sincerely,

Malinda Rice