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Subject: [EXTERNAL] DOCKET NO. 24-00044 Opposition to Proposed Residential Water Rate Increase by Limestone Utility
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Lee Rice

[REDACTED]

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February 05, 2025

Tennessee Public Utility Commission

502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor

Nashville, TN 37243-0001

Subject: DOCKET NO. 24-00044 Opposition to Proposed Residential Water Rate Increase by Limestone Utility

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed substantial increase in residential water rates by Limestone Utility, as detailed in the notice of public comment . Such a dramatic hike is unwarranted and places an undue financial burden on residents.

For context, neighboring communities maintain significantly lower water rates. In Savannah, Tennessee, residential customers inside the city limits are charged a minimum fee of \$12.07, with an additional \$3.64 per 1,000

gallons. In Counce, Tennessee, the First Utility District of Hardin County sets its rates at \$16.00 for the first 2,000 gallons and \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons thereafter. These rates are in line with other municipalities across the state. For example, in Lebanon, Tennessee, residential customers inside the city pay \$10.37 for the first 1,500 gallons and \$7.31 per 1,000 gallons thereafter. Similarly, in Springfield, Tennessee, the rate is \$20.24 for the first 2,000 gallons and \$7.71 per 1,000 gallons for the next 3,000 gallons.

Given these comparisons, I urge the Tennessee Public Utility Commission to thoroughly investigate the justification for Limestone Utility's proposed rate increase. It is imperative to ensure that any rate adjustments are fair, reasonable, and in line with the economic realities of the communities served.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Lee Rice