

Wayland B. Fong, M.D.

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2011 OCT 13 AM 9:46

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

UWI-W-11-02

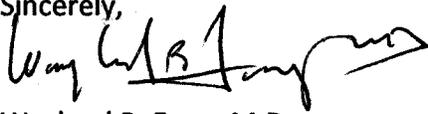
October 7, 2011

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, Id 83720-0074

RE: Proposed to rate increase

For the past several years, United Water urged its customers to conserve water and reduce consumption. It appears that its customers have heeded this request, decreasing water consumption. However, it appears that the company is punishing its customers for doing this by requesting an overall rate increase part of which apparently represents reduced consumption from conservation efforts. In my view, this is outrageous and I urge you to reject that part of their overall rate request, which deals specifically with decreased water consumption from conservation efforts.

Sincerely,



Wayland B. Fong, M.D.
WBF/jb

Jean Jewell

From: TaylorFam99@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 9:16 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Catherine Taylor follows:

Case Number: UWI-W-11-02
Name: Catherine Taylor
Address: 7827 W. Gillis St.
City: Boise
State: Idaho
Zip: 83714
Daytime Telephone: 208-853-0485
Contact E-Mail: TaylorFam99@aol.com
Name of Utility Company: United Water
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

I am appalled at United Water's request for a NINETEEN percent rate increase! Over the past 6 years of living in Idaho, I have seen near CONSTANT rate increases in electricity, gas, water, and sewer and trash. These are basic necessities that every family relies on. Those increases have generally been between 7% and 10%. With rising costs in fuel and food as well, our little family is really struggling. We have four children, and although my husband and I run several little side businesses in addition to his full time income, we are barely making it by. We live in a very modest, 1100 square foot home and live as frugally as we can. I suggest the utility companies do try to live as frugally. We simply cannot afford such a large rate increase.

Sincerely,

Cathy Taylor

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 64.184.242.172

Jean Jewell

From: jblakeley51@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 4:14 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from John Blakeley follows:

Case Number: UWI-W-11-02
Name: John Blakeley
Address: 2707 Hervey St.
City: Boise
State: Idaho
Zip: 83705
Daytime Telephone: 208-342-6794
Contact E-Mail: jblakeley51@gmail.com
Name of Utility Company: United Water Company
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

To Whom It May Concern: I oppose the 19+% rate increase United Water is asking for. I run a small business and recently had to replace a lot of my office equipment, update software to better serve my customers, and still pay excessive prices for gasoline to run my truck, but competition keeps me from raising my rates, so I have to look for other ways to cut expenses and still maintain the expected level of service to my customers. The excuse that consumption levels have dropped is a poor excuse considering how bad they beat us up in the summer with a 25% increase. If that is the only way United Water can run the company in an economy like this, they should be replaced. John Blakeley.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 184.99.110.148

Jean Jewell

From: lklind9@cableone.net
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 5:53 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Lance Lind follows:

Case Number: UWI-W-11-02
Name: Lance Lind
Address: 2302 W. Sunset Ave.
City: Boise
State: Idaho
Zip: 83702-0338
Daytime Telephone: 208-343-1533
Contact E-Mail: lklind9@cableone.net
Name of Utility Company: United Water Idaho
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

I adamantly oppose United Water Idaho's request for a general rate increase potentially effecting a 20% increase in my water charges.

United Water Idaho justifies its request by citing low consumer consumption as cause for a reduction in revenues. Yet, United Water has been advocating reduced consumption for years, and that reduction has been part of their business plan. Advertising and educating on lower consumption have been used to justify past increases. Because of past rate increases, including the last one just 15 months prior to the current request, some people I know have heeded United Water's advice and adopted xero-landscaping practices. Many more have simply quit watering their lawns. This latter option is obvious to everyone driving any neighborhood in town. Boise, City of Trees, is becoming Boise, City of Brown Grass and Weeds.

United Water Idaho's explanation for the requested increase uses the smoke-screen of line improvements on Hill Road, increased storage facilities, and improved treatment plants, yet these infrastructure items have been and are part of long-range business plans and maintenance needs, not emergency catastrophies.

Consumption is down. Supply cost has not increased. Supply remains more than adequate. There is no justification for a rate increase. Indeed, if water rates were DECREASED, consumption could be expected to increase, Boise's lawns would again be green, and United Water might realize a fair and reasonable revenue stream.

Poor management assumptions, projections, and investments should not be rewarded with a rate increase to bail-out clueless corporate officers. Again, I oppose the rate increase as ludicrous and warrantless. I recommend a rate decrease as a sane and sensible solution to United Water's revenue problem.

Sincerely,

Lance B. Lind
Boise

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>

Jean Jewell

From: karenphillips208@live.com
Sent: Friday, October 07, 2011 3:57 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Karen Phillips follows:

Case Number: UWI-W-11-02
Name: Karen Phillips
Address:
City: Boise
State: Idaho
Zip:
Daytime Telephone:
Contact E-Mail: karenphillips208@live.com Name of Utility Company: United Water Idaho
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

Please say NO to the rate increase. If we use too much water they want a rate increase...if we conserve on our consumption, they want a rate increase...there seems to be no happy medium!

Thank you.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 184.99.90.72

Jean Jewell

From: dhoppy@q.com
Sent: Friday, October 07, 2011 6:29 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from David Hopkins follows:

Case Number: *UWI-W-11-07*
Name: David Hopkins
Address: 5703 Randolph drive
City: Boise
State: Idaho
Zip: 83705
Daytime Telephone: 208 377-5788
Contact E-Mail: dhoppy@q.com
Name of Utility Company: united water
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

What an outrage of 19.9 percent increase with united water. If anything like thin increase goes through, I will be very politically involved in replacing all elected officials in connection with this. I simply cannot afford these rate hikes!

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 174.27.69.218
