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RECEIVED  
2011 NOV 17 AM 9:20  
IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: United Water rate increase 2011

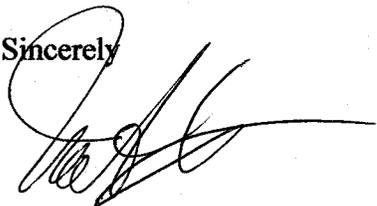
To the Commission:

After review of the application for a rate increase by United Water through Miller and McDevitt I ad my comment.

It appears that the only basis for increase is to increase the rate of return from 5.64% to 8.43%. 5.64% is still a reasonable rate of return under the circumstances and this economy and to meet the needs of the customers. Past opinions of this Commission have addressed it system investments and should not be allowed to be reiterated again in this instance. The economy at present would praise a return of 5% on it's investments in other sectors of this economy. Also water resources appear to be at a peak in these days.

Therefore I request the commission deny such an increase with prejudice under such a request as requested therein.

Sincerely



Martin Bettwieser

**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** birtporter@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2011 7:58 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Bret Porter follows:

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Case Number: UWI-W-11-02  
Name: Bret Porter  
Address: 831 Argyll Drive  
City: Boise  
State: ID  
Zip: 83702  
Daytime Telephone: 208-890-8949  
Contact E-Mail: [birtporter@yahoo.com](mailto:birtporter@yahoo.com)  
Name of Utility Company: United Water  
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

My comment is with respect to the excessive rate increase requested by United Water, as described in case #UWI-W-11-2. A one time increase of nearly 20% is onerous and excessive no matter the municipality. This tells me there was poor management and planning on behalf of UW for the proposed projects. It would appear UW did not do the necessary due diligence or cost assessment up front before committing to these projects, forcing them to request a drastic rate increase all at once to cover the unexpected costs. Understanding there are costs associated with maintaining and upgrading our water systems, increases should be more incremental over a longer period of time and/or the projects spread over a longer period of time. As an example would it not seem excessive if we were hit with an immediate 20% increase in the price of gasoline? Going from \$3.45 today to \$4.14 tomorrow would certainly create outrage. Yet like water, we are pinned in the corner because it is something we cannot go without (sadly almost more so). I submit an increase of no more than 5% at any one time or per project is sufficient, if needed at all (or just better planning).

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 208.187.37.50

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