

**Nickalus Holmes**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Brown  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 06, 2017 12:35 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** FW: Utilities, Inc. Florida Docket No. 20160101 approved rate increase request

**Importance:** High

Good Afternoon,

Please place the attached email in Docket Correspondence, Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 20160101-WS.

Thank you.

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**From:** Joe Maenza [<mailto:jmaenza@cfl.rr.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 06, 2017 12:11 PM  
**To:** [constantine@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:constantine@seminolecountyfl.gov)  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact; [gvenn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:gvenn@seminolecountyfl.gov); [adunbar@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:adunbar@seminolecountyfl.gov); [kedenfield@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:kedenfield@seminolecountyfl.gov); [jspry02@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:jspry02@seminolecountyfl.gov); [stucker@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:stucker@seminolecountyfl.gov); Office of Commissioner Polmann; Office Of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Brown; Office of Commissioner Brisé; Office Of Commissioner Clark  
**Subject:** Utilities, Inc. Florida Docket No. 20160101 approved rate increase request  
**Importance:** High

Dear Mr. Constantine

Seems you are the only one who understand that the drastic increase in our water and wastewater rate hike. I am hoping that you continue to pursue in filing an appeal for the homeowners of Seminole County. To say that these rate hikes are just, reasonable, compensatory, and not unfairly discriminatory, is hogwash. In the past 3 months my water bill DOUBLED then it TRIPLED. I once paid \$70 now I am paying over \$210.

I have read through many articles, and here is what I have found. **[Utilities Inc has stated that their increase is the result of the company consolidating its various rates into one rate across the state after merging its 12 subsidiaries into a single entity last year.]** Consolidation should not force the consumer to pay double or triple their previous bill.

They have also stated that **the reason for their rate increases would help Utilities Inc. pay for about \$35 million in capital improvements.** So me and my fellow Seminole residents paying triple the amount in my water bill will help with their capital investment? Oh and let us not forget that Utilities Inc **wanted the rate increase to give its employees pay raises and increase pensions.** My question is WHY do the Seminole County customers need to pay for a capital improvement, employee pay raises, and an increase in company pension?

Excuse me, shouldn't Utilities Inc pull this money from their profit, instead of asking their customers to pay for this capital improvement? A perfect example would be: Home Depot built a new store in a neighborhood, but the prices on all their store products will increase to cover for this capital improvement. This is just plain criminal. This is insane.

Now, Commissioner Donald Polmann is on record saying, "There will be a rate shock for some in some cases and it will be very significant, I have empathy for that. But if you look at the entire system, I think the benefits outweigh that." I'd like to thank Mr. Polmann for his empathy especially for those Seminole County retirees living on a fixed income.

There are regulations and guidelines for utilities on what is reasonable and justifiable. Tripling someone's bill is not reasonable or justifiable. This is highway robbery. Please Mr. Constantine, the people who live in Seminole County should not be required to pay for the consolidation, capital investment, pay raises, or pension plan. Utilities Inc is filling their pockets with the hardworking paychecks and Social Security payments from the people of Seminole County. We need your help. We need justice.

Regards,  
Joseph Maenza  
Longwood, Florida  
407-402-0996