## **Antonia Hover**

**From:** Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk

**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 8:56 AM

To: 'Penelope Jahna'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket #20240032-SU

Good Morning, Penelope Jahna.

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240032, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you!

## Toní Hover

Commission Deputy Clerk I Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399 Phone: (850) 413-6467

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From: Penelope Jahna <penelope.jahna@warner.edu>

Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2024 5:23 PM

**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark < Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Fay < Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Chairman La Rosa < Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo

<Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>; Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>

Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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## **Dear Commissioner**

This is a plea from a five generation Florida family lucky enough to discover a slice of old Florida called Little Gasparilla Island. My name is Penelope Jahna and we have owned property on Little Gasparilla Island since 2009, but we have been enjoying this little piece of grace poking out

of the Gulf for over 40 years. Our plea is that you reject the proposed central sewer system.

If you have never been to this island you may not understand the unique environment and lifestyle of its residents. There is no bridge to get here and we like it that way. You can only access the island by boat. My husband likes to say "it's an island-island." That attribute creates its own issues with construction of any kind, both financially and logistically. But that characteristic helps to preserve the island as it is. There are no paved roads, only a few dirt paths, and some properties have no utility easements. The challenges of the island keep it from becoming overcrowded. While there are a few full time island families, most homes are vacant as much as they are occupied, which means volume of waste is not an issue. Even after Irma, Idalia and Ian, which were devastating to this location, there was no evidence for an environmental need for a sewer.

We are currently in the process of building our second Sanctuary on the island after our first was damaged beyond repair. The septic we are required to install is estimated to cost in excess of \$50,000, but it is made to protect the environment. Should this proposal pass, I and every other resident who has installed a septic recently may well have flushed that cash right down the toilet as there is no plan for grandfathering of septic systems. According to EU estimates the installation fees of the proposed EU system are in excess of \$20,000 per household plus anticipated monthly charge of over \$250. This will certainly create a hardship on many families who have owned on this island for generations as well as new owners who just want to experience what it was like to live in the great state of Florida back before everything became automatic.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject the application for the sewer system on Little Gasparilla Island. My husband and I are formally requesting that the PSC deny the EU's application for wastewater service.

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Penelope Jahna
Warner University
Mathematics Instructor
 O: 863.638.7518   E: penelope.jahna@warner.edu   warner.edu

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