

To the Office of Commission
regarding Docket No 20250052-WS

Thank you for the notification and opportunity to voice concerns regarding the planned increase of water and wastewater rates in Marion County Florida. I had planned on speaking at the College campus of Central FL on March 5th, but a heavy workload consumed my day.

Since CSWR purchased Sunshine Utilities in Ocklawaha FL, our water rates have tripled, and to my knowledge no work has yet been done. So needless to say your formal notification of this new proposed rate hike brings great apprehension.

Ocklawaha is a lower income district. It's where people settled into affordable housing that the surrounding cities no longer offered. We bought into a small Mom-and-Pop utility company, Sunshine Utility, who provided and maintained our water needs with a personal service. They knew the area they serviced and were part of the community.

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CSWR is a rapidly expanding company; buying out small business over 11 states.

I fear that service will be overshadowed by shareholders hunger for growth and power!

I watch the movement across this country, this era of mergers, takeovers and development. Decisions made from executives gathered in cooperate chairs around boardroom tables; rewarded with promotions and bonuses to the decision makers. But i'm more sympathetic to those affected and humbled by your decisions! Those who will spend hours in chairs around dining room tables, bills sprawled across the surface trying to figure new budgets! Your profits have to fill many pockets so the product you sell no longer becomes affordable!

Water is a resource our Creator gave us freely! He gathered it in oceans, lakes, ponds, and fed them with streams and rivers. And now greed is taking hold, manipulating sources, stripping water rights from people across this

country; most notably farmers. And as we are overcharged and limited to this natural resource, technology; AI centers, nuclear power plants and mining operations are given freely so they can thrive. Do you see the absurdity in this?

A year or so ago we stood in opposition when they proposed a \$50,000.00 bill to each household to extend sewer lines to the area. And this was not to benefit us, but to the planned development of the area around Lake Weir. Yes those who have been devoted to this area, some for generations, were offered an opportunity to flip the bill for new comers, and new construction that will forever change this beautiful small town!

I heard a pastor say "The test of a mans heart is not in dispair, but in prosperity" I'm not under illusion that my one small voice will change anything, that the wheels in motion will come to a halt. No, all I ask is please give careful consideration and

thought to your decisions. If you have to build and when you push forward, build with intention that everyone can benefit. Be mindful and committed to maintain every neighborhood and the integrity of what makes it special. Please do not put burdens on shoulders of the smallest to add more gold in the pockets of kings.

And I end with this, create a model, a plan that will not only protect this most crucial resource, water, but also the folks you service. Protect the integrity of these neighborhoods, the heart in small towns that still exist, not just here in Florida, but in each of these 11 states that you've bought into. Old weathered houses are not a sore that needs to be removed and upgraded with a mansion or highrise, they are the foundation, the grit that has built our prosperity!

Blessings to you!

Most Sincerely, Laureen (Capomigro) Angelo
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