

FILE

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Docketing Division / Case #1112-WA-AIR  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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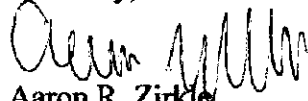
PUCO

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to express my concern regarding the Ohio American Water proposed rate increase in Lake Darby (Galloway). A 32.01% rate increase in water and 36.8% increase in sewer rates is a financial hardship for our community and my family. I wrote a computer program and if our rates were to increase by this much per year, in 9 years my water bill would be more expensive than my mortgage, it would be over 900 dollars a month. I was hoping my family would never have to move from our home; however, I contacted a realtor a month ago checking out houses in Hilliard because of the water rates. We have known several neighbors that have moved out because of the expensive water. Even if Ohio American Water manages to get a rate increase like this every 2 years, by the time my 3 year old son and 2 year old daughter are in college I could be paying more for water than I could for my children's tuition. Please don't make me uproot my family because of these water rates. I love our quiet community and hate to be forced to move out because of our water bills.

One other issue, the water tastes so bad that I am scared to give it to my children. We buy jugs of water at the store for them which increases our water cost even further. If the water was priced like Columbus City water I wouldn't mind the bad taste. This is really a secondary issue; my primary concern is the cost. I almost didn't mention the poor quality as I don't want Ohio American Water to use this as an excuse to raise water rates even further.

Sincerely,



Aaron R. Zirkle  
1302 Lieutenant Drive  
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Cc: Governor Strickland

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