

Email [opcservice@ded.mo.gov](mailto:opcservice@ded.mo.gov)

To: Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Reference: Missouri Case No. [WR-2017-0285](#), Missouri American Water Rate Increase Proposal.

I am opposed to the proposed water rate increase being proposed by Missouri American Water under their reference case number. Make no mistake; they are proposing a **68% increase** in our water usage rate; from \$3.74 to \$6.29 per 1000 gallons. Missouri American Water would like us to believe this is a 30% increase by reporting on the dollar change instead of the actual rate increase. Such a single year rate increase in any utility is uncommon and, in this case unjustifiable. Our water system has no treatment facilities. We are basically a private rural water community. Water is pumped from a deep well into a large storage tank and sent to our homes through the distribution piping system. Very simple.

Many of us are on fixed incomes and we cannot afford steady rate increases year after year. These high rate increases will discourage relocation to Branson West and be an embarrassment to the State of Missouri to have some of the highest average water rates in the country.

American Water's financial situation shows very high revenue increases every year. Combined with federal and state tax changes their corporate financial situation does not justify customer rate increases.

Please do what is right for the Missouri residents and disapprove the Missouri American Water rate increase proposal.

Sincerely,