

**Jacob Ve Vaughn**

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**From:** Veronica Washington  
**Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2020 1:06 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** FW: Commissioner Bonilla's opposition to Pluris Wedgefield LLC rate increase  
**Attachments:** Letter\_Bonilla\_PSC\_PlurisRateIncrease\_20200730.pdf

Please place the attached letter in Docket No. 20200000.

Thanks

**Veronica D. Washington**

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Andrew Fay  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
(850)413-6036  
vwashing@psc.state.fl.us

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**From:** Melissa.Strassner@ocfl.net [mailto:Melissa.Strassner@ocfl.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 30, 2020 5:35 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Polmann; Office of Chairman Clark; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Brown; Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Cc:** Emily.Bonilla@ocfl.net; Cristina Slaton; Hannah Barker; Betty Leland; Jennifer Brownfield; Veronica Washington; Eddie Phillips; Ana Ortega; Katherine Fleming; Jim Varian; Forrest Boone  
**Subject:** Commissioner Bonilla's opposition to Pluris Wedgefield LLC rate increase

Hello Honorable Commissioners,

Please find attached a letter in opposition from Commissioner Emily Bonilla of Orange County, District 5 regarding the Pluris Wedgefield, LLC recent rate increase currently set to become effective August 14, 2020. A hard copy will not follow.

Warm Regards,

Melissa Strassner  
Aide to Commissioner Emily Bonilla

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July 30, 2020

VIA electronic Correspondence  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

To Members of the Commission:

I am Commissioner Emily Bonilla, Orange County, Florida, District 5. I am writing to express concern with the recent notice of a rate increase sent by Pluris Wedgefield, LLC (Pluris, LLC) to the residents in Wedgefield, Florida. On June 15, 2020, residents were notified that their water rates would increase by approximately 1.01% and wastewater by 1.15%.

Upon conversation with staff at the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC), I understand that this increase is due to an annual administrative price indexing for certain noncontrollable expenses subject to inflationary pressures such as chemicals and other general operation and maintenance costs. Although we understand the logistics of such an increase, the Wedgefield community's impression is that Pluris, LLC, continues to raise their rates, even amid a national pandemic.

The citizens of Wedgefield again feel duped and taken advantage of by Pluris, LLC. I would be remiss if I did not express my frustration with the high rates charged by this private utility company. Although this price index is small, overall, the residents of Wedgefield are paying 147% higher rates than Orange County charges its customers. Furthermore, of the approximately eighty (80) PFSC-regulated combined water and wastewater utilities in Florida, Pluris, LLC is among the top 10 of the highest rates charged to its customers.

Due to the exorbitant rates Pluris, LLC charges its customers, Orange County is in negotiations to buy out this utility. This buy-out's sole purpose is to relieve the citizens of Wedgefield of the constant rate increases, even though it is not necessarily cost-effective for the county to do so.

I will continue to champion the effort of Orange County gaining control of the water and wastewater in Wedgefield. Until that effort has ceased, I will continue to voice my opposition to any rate increase, price indexes included, to the residents of Wedgefield. Therefore, please allow this letter to serve as my formal opposition to the price index rate increase.

COMMISSIONER EMILY BONILLA, DISTRICT 5  
201 South Rosalind Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor · Reply To: Post Office Box 1393 · Orlando, Florida 32802  
407-836-7304 · Fax 836-5976



On behalf of Wedgefield residents, I implore each member of the Public Service Commission to commit to ensuring that Florida consumers receive safe, reasonable, and reliable services at a reasonable price.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this very important issue.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Emily Bonilla".

Commissioner Emily Bonilla

CC:

Commissioner, Julie Imanuel Brown

Commissioner, Donald J. Polmann

Commissioner, Art Graham

Commissioner, Gary F. Clark

Commissioner, Andrew Fay