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October 7, 2020

Florida Public Service Commission
Director, Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0870

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COMMISSION
CLERK

RE: Docket No. 202200139-WS, Utilities Inc. of Florida

Dear Commissioners,

During 2017 the Florida Public Service Commission approved a 90% increase in the water rates for Utilities Inc. customers living in Seminole County. The purported purpose was to standardize rates in all Utilities Inc. franchise areas. Subsequent to that Utilities Inc. imposed a series of smaller increases that did not require commission approval and involved multiple selected counties. So where was the standardization? Utilities Inc. Is a classic example of bigger is not always better.

It is apparent Utilities Inc. has not seen fit to reinvest in infrastructure, technology, and/or productivity improvements. To sight examples, Utilities Inc. has not offered a recycled water for irrigation program to Seminole County customers. They also have not initiated a program of replacing outdated manually read water meters with meters equipped with remote reading capability. This alone would reduce costs significantly.

From my perspective Utilities Inc. is not deserving of a rate increase. Further, I would suggest their rates be rolled back to 2017 levels until such time as Utilities Inc. embarks upon an aggressive program of systemwide upgrades and modernization.

Sincerely,

Ronald C. Stein

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