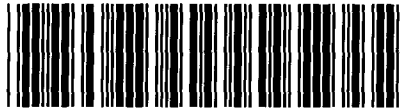


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Tall Oaks Properties

James and Geneva Kent

19197 Valley Drive Flint, Texas 75762 (903)-805-1489 cell www.talloaksproperties.com

January 16, 2017

1701 N. Congress Ave.

P.O. Box 13326

SOAH Docket No. 473-17-1641.WS

Austin, TX 78711-3326

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I are writing this letter as a motion to intervene in the rate increase case of Liberty Utilities. My wife and I wish to be participants in this case. Our family has a small rental business in Smith County, and we own 4 rental properties served by Liberty Utilities. Our property is located just outside the city limits of Tyler in the Southchase subdivision, and we are forced to use the sewer services of Liberty Utility as there is no other sewer company that services this area. For years, the sewer fee has been outrageous. It is very important to note that we already endured a 40% rate increase in 2010, so we are overwhelmed at this new proposal. The Southchase subdivision is a large rental community of roughly 100 rental units/ households all served by Liberty Utilities. Our duplexes have only **ONE sewer tap**, and our units have either one or two bathrooms total. The sewer fee for a duplex is currently \$69.70 per month (\$70.40 with the TCEQ Regulatory Assessment). Liberty now plans to charge the two units separately at the single residential price despite the fact that there is only **ONE sewer tap**. Each unit will now be charged SEPERATELY at a rate of \$96.38, or \$192.76 per duplex per month. This means a 177% increase for duplex owners/ tenants. The annual sewer fee will now be more than the annual property tax bill for three of our properties. Our tenants are all on tight budgets, and they cannot absorb this increase. As small business owners, we cannot absorb this cost either. The rates just outside the city limits are already over twice the rates of city sewer. Rates for residential homes are now proposed to increase 75%. Homeowners will be forced to pay almost \$1200 per year for just sewer services alone with no water or trash service included. In most cities, such as Dallas, the sewer fee is proportional to the amount of water used. Liberty Utility customers have no choice but to pay these fees or their water is cut off! The citizens feel helpless. Thank you for allowing us to participate in this hearing.

Sincerely,

James and Geneva Kent

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