



Filing Receipt

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Aqua increasing our monthly non-metered sewer rate from \$87.97 to \$145.40 would represent a drastic 65% price increase overnight, about 27 times higher than the current US annual inflation rate of 2.4%. At the current sewer rate of \$87.97, residents in the Sunset Oaks community in Maxwell, TX already pay more than double the state average for sewer, which is \$36.83 based on the usage of 5,000 gallons in a 2024 survey. Or ~239% more than the state average. Subjecting residents to a 65% rate increase for sewer alone (or ~395% more than the 2024 state average) would hurt household budgets and is an egregious power hungry move. That extra sewer cost of \$57.43/month (times hundreds or thousands of households) could go toward supporting local businesses and tourism, which help maintain a healthy economy for Texans, instead of funneling that money out of the state to a multibillion-dollar corporation based in Pennsylvania.

Essential Utilities, the parent company of Aqua, consistently generates an annual profit margin around 25-30%, which is comparable to innovative tech giants like Apple and Microsoft. Aqua's parent company would easily remain highly profitable if our sewer rate stays at the already-high \$87.97, or ~239% more than the 2024 state average. This is ridiculous and out of line and needs to be stopped.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this very important issue affecting Texans.