Jon Skoglund President, Brookside Hollow Condominiums P.O.Box 1406 Campton, N.H. 03223

September 15, 2014

To: Debra Howland

Executive Director, Public Utilities Commission the State of New Hampshire 21 South Fruit Street Suite 10 Concord, N.H. 03301

## Reference DW 14-176

We are home owners in the Brookside Hollow Condominium Association located in Thornton, N.H., one of three associations which are supplied water by The Mill Brook Village Water System. The proposed build out of our association is 8 units. Presently there are four units built with the possibility of four more to be built in the future.

As home owners we are very concerned about the proposed water rate change the developer has requested. The recorded declarations of Brookside Hollow Condominiums which were adopted in 1991 state on page four, section six, titled Water and Septic Systems - "The Declarant intends to make water available to each of the units and improved units within Brookside Hollow for purchase by the association or by the owners of the improved units, The Declarant, for itself, its successors and assigns, covenants and agrees to supply water to each improved unit within Brookside Hollow at an annual water user fee rate of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per year, which amount shall be subject to an annual adjustment on the basis of the Consumer Price Index." On that basis, our water rate per improved unit is two hundred sixty two dollars thirty nine cents (\$262.39) for 2014.

In the setting of new water rates for Brookside Hollow Condominiums, The Falls at Mill Brook, and Mill Brook Village, we ask that the present differences in water rates as set forth in each associations declarations be acknowledged. These ratios need to be maintained in order that the members of different associations not suffer a disproportionate rate increase.

We ask the Public Utilities Commission to acknowledge that all the lots in Brookside Hollow are dependent upon the water system. The lots cannot satisfy the setback requirements required to drill individual wells. Thus, the investment value of the lots is directly tied to their ability to be connected to the water system. Since the Mill Brook Water System is clearly supporting the investment value of every lot in our association and the vast majority, if not every lot, in the three associations; we ask that every lot in Brookside Hollow, The Falls at Mill Brook and Mill Brook Village be required to support the water system. Each lot should be considered equally in the new water rate. Charging the owners of vacant land the same water rate as a home owner simply amounts to a carrying charge on their investment. Without the ability to connect to the water system the vacant lots would be unbuildable and their value as investments would plummet. The actual increase in cost to deliver water to the additional homes would amount to an increase in the electric bill from running the pump more often. This cost would be insignificant. Any difference in the water rate between unimproved (vacant lots) and improved lots (lots with homes) simply amounts to a penalty on those who own homes in our communities. To grant the request of the developer to base a new water rate on 37 homes instead of the full build out of the system which is 64 would result in a severe penalty to home owners.

Acting on the advice of a geologist and without the consent of our association, Mill Brook recently had a new well drilled a few feet from Brookside Hollow's property line. This illegally places one side of the well's 200 ft. protective radius largely on Brookside Hollow property. We believe that Mill Brook needs to negotiate an easement on terms satisfactory to our association before any further action is taken by the commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Yon Skoglund President, Brookside Hollow Condominium Association