



Eric L. Olsen, Chairman
Jonathan M. Goldman, Vice Chair
Thomas Tombarello
Darren Hudgins
Robert Nickerson

TOWN OF SANDOWN, NH

Office of Selectmen
320 Main Street/P.O. Box 1756
Sandown, NH 03873
603-887-3646
fax# 603-887-5163

March 24, 2021

Dear Public Utilities Commission members,

The Town of Sandown, Board of Selectmen would like to take this opportunity to share our concerns on behalf of our residents regarding Hampstead Area Water Company's (HAWC) Request to Change Rates, Docket No. DW 20-117 which would significantly increase rate schedules. We hope these concerns are taken into consideration as you move forward in determining HAWC's approval or denial.

HAWC has approximately 272 customers in the Town of Sandown, some of whom are elderly and young families. After reviewing the proposal, we strongly feel these proposed rates are extreme and place an undue burden on our residents. Many of these customers are retired living on strict fixed incomes and all are trying to manage living through the current pandemic and the financial struggles brought on by these events.

Understanding that many businesses are faced with ever increasing costs, the increases proposed by HAWC are exorbitant and will increase not only individual households but the tax burden for all residents of our surrounding communities with an over 600% increase in fire protection services alone and approximately 50% increase in monthly fixed rates for customers.

The Public Utilities Commission is tasked with determining whether these rates are just, reasonable and lawful and whether those proposed increases will yield a just and reasonable rate of return on capital investment in plant and equipment. This includes plant additions relating to the Southern NH Regional Water Project as well as other components. We are hopeful the PUC will take all comments and concerns into consideration and determine a fair rate schedule for all parties and will consider the direct financial impact on the welfare and well-being of the families in our community. We do not believe any fair or reasonable person would view these proposed rates with these large increases as fair, just or reasonable.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.

Sandown Board of Selectmen,

Eric L. Olsen
Chairman