

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this email as a concerned citizen seeking appropriate government regulation, not as someone whining about paying my fair share. I get it; your office probably gets complaints all the time from individuals not wanting to “pay more money”. This is not my angle, so I hope you will the following

It has recently come to my attention (via mail sent by Pennichuck) that the company intends to increase Litchfield water rates by over 20%. I am more than happy to pay top dollar for excellent service and valuable commodities, but water, and particularly the often-brown water Pennichuck sets flowing through my pipes cannot be considered high-quality service nor a valuable (or even potable) commodity. If I could have a well on my property, I would; in a town like litchfield it **should** be rather easy to dig functioning well, given the wetlands one which most of us have built. But the PFOA contamination makes any well risky, and the additional thousands it could cost to appropriately filter well water makes the well even more cost prohibitive.

It would be one thing if water rates were equally high across the state. If that were true, I could convince myself that these rates are just the cost of going business. But to my knowledge, in comparison to neighboring towns, even our current rates are well above what would be considered fair market value, and the increase I am requesting you prevent will only serve to exacerbate this discrepancy.

As you make a decision of whether or not to intervene, I ask that you consider not simply the viability of a business’s intent to increase rates, but the nuance of the context in which that increased rate would be implemented, and the inescapable consequences it has for the residents of a small, politically-diverse NH town.

Thank you for your time,
Kate MacNamee