

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter to protest the proposed rate hike for Pennichuck Corporation customers in Litchfield.

The rate increase proposed is astronomical and inequitable compared to the surrounding towns. There is no reason that the residents of Litchfield (myself included) should pay between 2.9 and 5.7 times the surrounding communities.

This is especially unconscionable for the residents in town who have had to abandon their wells due to the St. Gobain PFOA contaminations. These residents did not want to switch to town water in the first place and now they are being forced to pay an exorbitant rate for a utility that they used to enjoy for free.

Since Litchfield will be paying between 200% – 500% of the neighboring towns, it only stands to reason that we are subsidizing improvements in the other 28 surrounding communities. There is no reason that Litchfield should be chosen to pay for this.

This utility provides a service that no household can dispense with and there are no other options for water than Pennichuck. Pennichuck is therefore morally obliged to ensure that it does not discriminate against or maltreat one town in its customer base. This rate hike is abusive and unreasonable.

One their website, Pennichuck writes that their mission is to "be a premier supplier of water in New Hampshire by providing reliable, high quality, and affordable water in sufficient quantities." We as residents have all experienced the pains of having the brown and murky water that Pennichuck has a tendency to provide. It is only right that they don't go forward with extorting outrageous rates for this sub-quality water.

In my neighborhood just this past spring, the Litchfield Fire Department was running drills on the undeveloped land at the end of our street....The fire department had to stop their drills because there was so much sediment in the water that it slowed the flow in their hoses. We were then notified that it took them over two hours to clean the nozzles and if there had in fact been a fire on our street that they hydrants in our area would not have been enough to fight a fire!

Best regards,

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