

Katherine Nutt



ORIGINAL

LW-01303A-09-0343
SW-01303A-09-0343

From:
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2010 2:15 PM
To: Kennedy-Web
Subject: Anthem - AZ Water proposed rate increase

Dear Commissioner Kennedy:

I am contacting you regarding my concern for the proposed water rate increases in Anthem, AZ by AZ Water. I have just moved to AZ and selected Anthem for its stability in this unstable housing market and the fact that even though foreclosures and short sales exist here - there are more houses for resale that are not and these houses sell quickly because of what the community has to offer. It is a lovely neighborhood with desert plants, shrubs, trees. The golf course was our main attraction along with the community pool and the Anthem Country Club pool facility. It is not cheap living here but this water rate increase is going to be more than just an astronomical monthly bill - it is going to hit our monthly golf and HOA dues. A golf club has to have water and we are going to be directly hit with that increase. It is a two edge sword for the HOA - if we don't keep up the landscape - property values go down - if we keep it up ant the HOA dues are too high people won't find this area desirable, those already stressed will foreclose or walk away and the property values plummet again.

Jobs will be lost all over the community ---- have we not heard the politicians all saying they are working to turn the economy through job creation. I will not vote for any of the commissioners currently elected the next time around if they can not understand the consequences of AZ Water's proposed increase. For example - who needs a landscaper when we cut back on plants and scrubs, who needs to sell supplies, make repairs and maintain pools when property owners can no longer afford the water to keep them full. Why live in AZ at all if you can not have access to a pool? Incomes are not rising and doubling a payment for water will reduce expenditures on entertainment from restaurants, movies, cable, etc. etc. and again more jobs and more burden on our government, resulting in move taxes etc. etc. etc. We need Jobs - we need to get money flowing - don't let this happen.

Certainly we all understand businesses need to make money and cover costs. But AZ Water is a large corporations and have the means to stay profitable without attacking a small number of their customers in a small community.

Again, I just moved to the Anthem Country Club community. If is a beautiful, peaceful place to live. We just retired and have a fixed income and since we want to Golf until we are too old to move - we chose this area. We thought we got the most for our money. We sold a home in Florida in May at a loss (as most have) to move out here. Now I am concerned we have made the wrong decision and if this community deteriorates - if the amenities become too expensive and we have to golf elsewhere due to cost - then we have no reason to stay here.

Please support the members of this community and oppose the rate increase. This is not the time to hit so many and suffer more job loss. We all are concerned about tax increases, Obama care and all the effects on individuals and business growth and the uncertainty of this water rate increase is a large load on everyones mind. Would you move to a community where they pay twice as much in utilities and water bills - if you could live 10 miles closer to the city and pay less? This is a simple decision - please do what is right.

Sincerely,

Laurie Rezagholi
[Redacted]
Anthem, AZ 85086
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

RECEIVED
2010 SEP 30 P 4: 17
AZ WATER COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

SEP 30 2010

DOCKETED BY [Signature]

Katherine Nutt

W-01303A-09-0343
SW-01303A-09-0343

From: Wendy Patterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2010 2:50 PM
To: Mayes-WebEmail; Kennedy-Web; Newman-Web; Pierce-Web; Stump-Web; Utilities Div - Mailbox
Subject: AZ American Water Rate Hike in Anthem

Dear Arizona Corporation Commissioners:

We have been residents in Anthem since 2003. We bought our home on the golf course directly from Pulte and were never made aware of their backroom deal with AZ American Water. We started out paying around \$70 a month for our home's water and sewer and we are already up to over \$125/month for only 3 people. The monthly dues at the Country Club have also gone up significantly due to their increasing water and sewer charges. We also owned a restaurant in Anthem for a few years and saw first hand the effect that the exorbitant water and sewer rates have on a small business. These costs get passed onto the consumers and the Anthem residents get gouged again. Every homeowner and every business in this community has already suffered an undue burden from a secret agreement between two large companies that we were not a party to or even made aware of. This beautiful community has additionally suffered a great deal from the mortgage crisis. We saw a large portion of the homes here get foreclosed on and still depend on rental property in order to keep houses occupied and maintained. The homes on the west side of I-17 as well as the homes south on Carefree Highway are all supplied with water from the City of Phoenix at a cost to homeowners significantly below that from AZ American Water, despite actually getting the water from AZ American. How are our homes supposed to compete either for sale or for rent versus those nearby homes with lower utility costs? I implore you to do the right thing and deny the request of AZ American water to further increase our water and sewer rates now or in the near future.

Sincerely,

Wendy and Jeff Patterson

Katherine Nutt

W-01303A-09-0343
SW-01303A-09-0343

From: Andy Tobias [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2010 3:36 PM
To: Mayes-WebEmail
Cc: Kennedy-Web; Newman-Web; Pierce-Web; Stump-Web; Utilities Div - Mailbox
Subject: Anthem Water Rate Case

This email is to state my position on the Arizona American proposed rate increase. I believe as every Anthem resident I have spoken to, that the rate increase requested is completely unreasonable, unjust, and has potentially far reaching negative effects that has the possibility to wipe out a whole community.

This increase will make the average monthly water bill go from \$125 to \$200. In addition the homeowners will have to pay substantially increased fees to the HOA's and the Country Club as their rate skyrocket. It will lower home values and make our already stressed housing market worse.

In addition to our community being singled out to pay some of the highest water rates in the country, the way in which the rates are being determined are just wrong. Normally the cost of infrastructure is built into the sales price of the homes, it was not at this development. The developer did not build in these costs, rather structured the buyout of the utility and deferred the costs to them. The plan was then to recoup the costs from the water district through these rate increases. Unfortunately, the developer did not disclose this to the home buyers at any time.

It is also unfair and unjust to push these up-front costs along immediately and expect complete repayment with interest by raising the rates to the consumers. No private business could do this to its clients. I am in auto repair. I could not recoup my capital expenditures for equipment up front from my clients. Using the Arizona American model I would charge each of my clients \$500 every time I used that tire machine until the capital expenditure was paid off. I would be out of business.

As I'm sure you have already received thousands of emails, letters, and phone calls, I'll stop here. You know this is unreasonable. You know this will have a catastrophic impact on this community. You know this is not right. Please do the right thing and vote this down. Try to help the people, your constituents, of this community keep their homes.

Thank you for your time.

Andy Tobias aam.

AAA Top Shop Award Winner 2009 & 2010!

Tobias' Automotive Specialists, Inc.
Anthem & Cave Creek, Arizona

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, martini in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!"

Have an amazing day!

Katherine Nutt

U-01303A-09-0343
SW-01303A-09-0343

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2010 4:57 PM
To: Kennedy-Web
Subject: Anthem Water Rates

The proposed rate hikes for Anthem residents is extreme. This email is being sent to respectfully ask your immediate attention as to the impending water rate hike. Please listen to the consumers. Speaking as an elderly couple on a small income, a 77% rate hike would take away money we don't even have! Keeping a decent yard would be impossible although we have only desert plants and no grass. Water is a precious commodity. We do not take it for granted and do not overuse. Raising water rates at such a huge increase would force many out of their homes.

That does not help the economy in any way. One of the reasons we purchased a home in Anthem ten years ago was the reassurance that water supply and costs would not be a problem. We are relying on you to keep it that way.

Sincerely,
Leland and Donna Sidwell

Katherine Nutt

W-01303A-09-0343
SW-01303A-09-0343

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2010 6:23 PM
To: Mayes-WebEmail; Kennedy-Web; Newman-Web; Pierce-Web; Stump-Web;
mailmasters@azcc.gov
Subject: Anthem Water Rate Case; Docket Number W-01303A-09-0343

To the Members of the Corporation Commission:

I am writing with regard to the upcoming decision on the Anthem water case. Thank you for the time you have spent hearing from the various constituents and your careful deliberation in this matter.

There are just a few points I wish to make.

First, in 2005 (our first full year in Anthem), our water bill averaged \$78.18 for the full year. For the first eight months of 2010, our water bill has averaged \$118.58. This is a 51.68% increase. Certainly revenue for us, e.g. wages, investments, interest rates, etc. have not increased by 52% in this time frame. To ask for another increase, on top of the 51.68% increase in just 5 years, is just wrong and immoral.

Secondly, customers just on the other side of I-17 are not affected by the increase in the price of water, yet their water comes from the same place, up the same hill. And homes with a slightly smaller diameter water pipe are not impacted to the same degree. How do you explain the fairness of that?

Lastly, we have neighbors who live in Anthem approximately 5 months of the year. I sent them my spreadsheet with our utility bills and they compared their water bill to ours. They do not have a swimming pool and we do. Their total water bill for 2009 was only **\$25** less than our total water bill! That was incredible to both of us. They pay about the same as we do yet they are rarely here and do not have a pool. There is absolutely no incentive to reduce water use when virtually 99% of the cost is the delivery of the water, not the amount used. Isn't this wrong when so many at the Arizona Statehouse are preaching conservation?

Thank you again for your thoughtful consideration of this issue which impacts every single homeowner in Anthem.

Richard T. Dolezal

[REDACTED]
Anthem, AZ 85086
[REDACTED]

Katherine Nutt

W-01303A-09-0343
8W-01303A-09-0343

From: James Estes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2010 5:29 AM
To: Kennedy-Web
Subject: ID Theft APS acct 371005281

On 7/6/10 I was told by APS that I had a pass due bill of \$296.95 that was from 2005 in Phoenix, AZ. I never been to Az I lived in Portland OR all of m life. I notified APS on 7/6/10 that this was ID theft but had to pay the amount due. I again informed them by mail on 7/28/10 and also I filed a police report on 7/6/10. I received a letter from APS dtd 7/28/10 that they needed additional information. I faxed there information that was needed on 9/2/10. To date I have not heard anything.

Being disabled and on limited income can you help me to recover this money.

Thank you for any help you can give me.
James Estes

Katherine Nutt

LW-01303A-09-0343
SW-01303A-09-0343

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2010 1:22 PM
To: Kennedy-Web
Subject: Water Rates

This email is being sent to respectfully ask your immediate attention as to the impending water rate hike. Please listen to the consumers, this one included, who will be adversely affected if this takes place.

Speaking as a couple on a small income, a 77% rate hike would take away money we don't even have! Keeping a decent yard would be impossible although we have only desert plants and no grass. Surely there are ways to meet commitments for the water company without such disastrous decisions impacting small consumers.

One of the reasons we purchased a home in Anthem ten years ago was the reassurance that water supply and costs would not be a problem. We are relying on you to keep it that way.

Sincerely,
Leland and Donna Sidwell

Katherine Nutt

W-01303A-09-0343
SW-01303A-09-0343

From: laura [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2010 1:57 PM
To: Kennedy-Web
Subject: Anthem water increase!!

70 percent hike is not fair!!! Can't afford it! My house value is way down. If this is approved- more homes will be abandoned in Anthem. Help!!!
Sent from my BlackBerry® smartphone with SprintSpeed