August 18, 2003

FILE COPY

Missouri Public Service Commission Fax: 573-751-1847

Office of Public Counsel, Attn: Ruth O'Neill Fax: 573-751-5562

FROM: Patrick J. & Kathleen F. Steece 13295 Timber Park Terrace Platte City, MO 64079

Proposed Timber Creek Sewer Co. Rate Increase

On August 15, 2003, we were notified that the Timber Creek Sewer Co., Inc., of Platte City, MO had requested a monthly rate increase of approximately 63.4% through your agencies. However, the sewer company did not explain or justify a rationale for the increased fees.

As customers of the Timber Creek Sewer Co., we feel that an increase of more than 60% seems extreme, especially when no information as to why it is needed was provided. We would ask that your agencies examine this request carefully to ensure that it is this rate increase request is in the best interest of the consumers it will affect.

Patrick J. Steece

teleen J. Skeece

Kathleen F. Steece

Brad A. Bunge 15505 NW 137th St. Platte City, MO 64079 Home Phone (816) 858-3840 Email thebunges@aol.com

August 18, 2003

Office of the Public Counsel Attn:Ruth O'Neill PO Box 7800 Jefferson City, MO 65102

To Whom it May Concern,

I was recently informed that my sewer company, Timber Creek Sewer Company, Inc., submitted a request to the Missouri Public Service Commission to allow it to increase its sewer rates by approximately 63.4%. I understand I live in one of the fastest growing areas in the state and the costs of doing business are ever increasing. However, I feel an increase of 63.4% is unreasonable. In my opinion an increase of 20-25% would suffice at this time, with the possibility of another 10-15% increase over the next several years.

Again, I understand an increase is inevitable and probably warranted. All I ask is the increase be one of reason. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Brack O. Funge

08-18-03



Office of Public Counsel Attn: Ruth O'Neill PO Box 7800 Jeff City, Missouri 65102

To whom this may concern:

I am writing to state my opposition to the requested rate increase by Timber Creek Sewer Company. An increase of 63.4% is outrageous and does not reflect enough concern for those on a fixed income or others with budgetary concerns. I encourage those making the decision, regarding this shocking increase, to send a message to the Timber Creek Sewer Company, asking this company to exercise better fiscal control instead of burdening their constituents with a huge and unwarranted expense.

Steve Bogart 7 Timber Creek Circle Platte City, Missouri 64079

13835 Hunter Court Platte City NO 64079 angust 18, 2003

Office of the Public Coursel attn: Ruth O'Neill P.O. Box # 2800 Jefferson City, MO 65102

FILE AAAV

Ms. O'Neill:

I am writing you in concern for the proposed 63. 4% increase in Timber Geek Server Co. Inc. of Platte City no annual operating server service revenues. as an educator (I teach in a public school), I have been proyen in pay seven (7) of the last fourteen (14) years. Those ather seven (7) years I received about 3% per year. Timber Creeks is asking for 63.4% it would taken me about Il years of teaching to realize that type of increase. I have no problem with increases of their cost of chemicals

water etc. increases, but to quote Timber auch ..... provide an adequate return on investments. additionally, the Company is requesting that its misiellaneous service change and service connection feer be updated. That is not right. I don't care that their investors get an "adequate return on investments", and miscellaneous fees could cover just about anything , also four service connection fees were O.K. when we were connected to their service, what kappened on caused those fuer to change? I haven't AUG 2 0 2003 noticed any difference in pervice.

I am requesting thet you deny (first) or approve a love

percentage (second) to Timber acek Sewer 6. Inc. If & Rove to make - do "on 3% (or lies) increase pur year, other (investors) can tighten their bette as well!

Thank your, Melvin D. Kingery Leelie K. Kingery

FLEICOPY Richard H. & Cheryl D. Burress 13055 Red Oak Court Platte City, Missouri 64079 816.858.4256 . 11

August 17, 2003

Missouri Public Service Commission Water and Sewer Department P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Office of the public Counsel Attn: Ruth O'Neill P.O. Box 7800 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Re: Timber Creek Sewer Company

Dear Sir or Madam:

We recently received notice from the Timber Creek Sewer Company, Inc. that they had submitted a request for permanent increase in its current sewer rates, under the Missouri Public Service Commission's small sewer company rate increase procedure.

Currently, monthly rates for a residence such as we own is \$16.50 per month. However, this fee would increase to \$26.97 per month under the current proposal, an increase of 63.4%. We believe the service we receive from Timber Creek Sewer is adequate and we realize that their investors must make a profit. However, a 63.4% increase is completely unreasonable. I think you would be hardpressed to find anyone that is using Timber Creek's service who has received a 63.4% increase in their income.

We also believe that any regulated business that truly needs this huge increase to maintain a reasonable return on investments is surely lacking in good business management or has become very greedy at the expense of its captive customers. I hope you will take a hard look at this request and deny the rate increase request. ....F

Sichard H & Chiry Burren

Richard H. and Cheryl D. Burress

15750 NW 135<sup>th</sup> Street Platte City, MO 64079



19 August 2003

Missouri Public Service Commission Water and Sewer Department P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am responding to a 15 August 2003 letter, from the Timber Creek Sewer Co., Inc, indicating their request for a 63.4% rate increase. I am <u>opposed</u> to such a drastic increase at this time.

Currently, my wife and I pay a flat \$16.50 per month for sewer service. The bill is paid from a ticket book supplied by Timber Creek Sewer, and does not take into account the amount of water purchased from our water supplier.

According to the letter, our "Proposed Monthly Bill (using 6,000 gallons)" would be " $\underline{$26.97}$ ", which is an increase of " $\underline{$10.47}$ ". Looking at our last water bill, we used 3,800 gallons of water. A review of several previous months bills indicate a usage of an average of 3,000 gallons per month.

It appears to me that my wife and I are subsidizing the heavier water users. We are being penalized for our water conservation (no lawn watering, limiting dishwashing, etc). With this proposed increase, we will be even more penalized. Thus:

### My wife and I are <u>against</u> this rate increase!

Respectfully,

Scott G. Bradley Cc: Ruth O'Neill, Office of the Public Counsel

August 21, 2003

Office of the Public Counsel Attn: Ruth O'Neill P.O.Box 7800 Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Re: Timber Creek Sewer Co. rate increase

Sirs,

This letter is in response to the Timber Creek Sewer Company of Platte City request for a rate increase. Their proposal is for a whopping 63.4% increase!! It is understandable for a company to request a rate increase of moderate proportions to cover operating expenses, but an increase of this amount is blatantly unconscionable!

Most utility companies can operate with the occasional 10-20% increase to cover gradually increasing costs, but the amount they are requesting is beyond belief. I personally would like to have a 63% increase in my salary, or a 63% return on my investments also. However, I do not believe that the users of the Timber Creek Sewer Company's services should be expected to pay for a return on investments to the owners and investors of that company that far exceed any returns that they are getting, along with the public in general, from any other kind of investment.

The appearance of that rate request seems to be, 'Well, we want money, let's get the users of these services to pay us a return we can't get any where else!'.

The operation of this company should be carefully scrutinized to determine why they feel a rate increase of this amount is justified.

Sincerely,

Kan Derin

Kevin O'Brien 13430 Sycamore Dr. Platte City, Mo. 64079

AUS 2 5 2008

August 22, 2003

Office of the Public Counsel Attn: Ruth O'Neill P. O. Box 7800 Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Dear Ms. O'Neill:

I am in receipt of a letter dated July 15, 2003 from Timber Creek Sewer Company requesting a permanent increase in it's current sewer rates. My wife and I live in the Timber Park addition which would be affected by this increase. We believe that a company needs to have adequate returns on investments but we feel that 63.4 percent is excessive, especially since we are both retired and are living on a fixed income. We are aware that the Timber Park Sewer Company will be adding customers in the future and believe this should be taken into consideration.

We appreciate the fact that Missouri Public Service Commission and its staff will be looking after the interests of the consumer.

Sincerely, Dean Winter Shirley Henter

Dean and Shirley Winter 13260 Timber Park Terrace Platte City, Mo. 64079 Telephone: 816-858-2862

#### 23 August 2003

Subject: Timber Creek Sewer Co. rate increase



To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in reference about their requested rate increase of 63.4% We have lived in this addition for a little over 2 years. I am not saying things haven't gone up over the last couple of years, however, I feel this big of rate increase is not justified. The company believes this increase is necessary to allow it to meet current operating expenses as well as provide an adequate return on their investments. I also would like an adequate return on my investments, however, I cannot petition anyone to request a nice hefty hike. As far as current operating expenses, I feel a large part of the increase is to pay for new developments, which obviously have nothing to with those of us who live here. A small increase may be necessary to meet operating expenses, but one of 63.4% is totally out of line.

Distie & Janice Chietians

Leslie & Janice Christians 15955 NW 134<sup>th</sup> Circle Platte City, Missouri 64079 816-858-4423

email: lcvalk@yahoo.com

15615 Meadow Court Platte City, MO 64079

Phone 816-858-4465

Office of the Public Counsel Attn: Ruth O'Neill P.O. Box 7800 Jefferson City, MO 65102

August 25, 2003

RE: Proposed increase in monthly sewer rate (see attached letter dated August 15, 2003)

Dear Ms. O'Neill:

I am sure that you are involved with this proposed sewer rate increase. I am opposed to such a high amount of increase. Many question come to mind, the first of which is, Is Timber Creek Sewer Co operating in the red? If so, for how long. Another question is how can they justify an increase of 63.4%?

I am not opposed to a sewer rate increase. As a result of inflation, everything costs more today than yesterday, BUT 63.4%?? I wish I could get a wage increase of 63.4%!!

I work for the US Postal Service (USPS). Would Mr. Willis Sherry be opposed to paying \$ 0.61 for a First Class Stamp? (this is a 63.4% increase over the current \$ 0.37 for a stamp). You know, the USPS increases the price of a stamp by 2 cents and all 'heck' breaks loose.

Again, I am not opposed to a sewer rate increase, but let's keep it in perspective.

Sincerely,

Fran Lloy Kevan R. Lov

concerned customer of TCSC

cc: Timber Creek Sewer Company (TCSC)

The Micks

13025 Woodridge Platte City MO 64079 816-858-4604 mick@mwsc.edu

25 August 2003

Ruth O'Neill Office of Public Counsel PO Box 7800 Jefferson City MO 65102

RE: Timber Creek Sewer Co. rate increase

Attached are documents that we received earlier this year from Timber Creek Sewer. The letter from Timber Creek Sewer was the first notice we have ever received that our bill was delinquent. After calling Timber Creek Sewer with my concerns, the spreadsheets where then mailed to prove how long we had been behind in our bill. All this was quite interesting since I had every cancelled check since we moved to Platte City; we have never even mailed a check late, let alone missed a payment.

When I called Timber Creek to voice my concerns, the office representative stated that we had been late every month since 2001 when we started service. I found that interesting since we started service in 1998. I then sent my own spreadsheet (not included) listing every check number and the month the check cleared. I have yet to hear from Timber Creek, although I did finally call when I received the rate increase letter to discover that Timber Creek no longer considers us delinquent, which we never were in the first place.

Our concern regarding the rate increase and our billing fiasco is how many other bills are supposedly late or out of order? How much money is going uncollected or unaccounted for by shoddy accounting and bill tracking processes? How can we be considered (incorrectly it turns out) delinquent for two years and yet never be asked for payment?

Rate increases are often needed, but not to cover unacceptable accounting procedures or to make up for missing funds. We hope Timber Creek Sewer's financial accounting will be closely examined.

15

Sincerely, Todd D. Mick

August 25, 2003

## FILE COPY

Missouri Public Service Commission Water and Sewerage Department PO Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Office of the Public Council Attn: Ruth O'Neill PO Box 7800 Jefferson City, MO 65102

To whom it may concern and Ms. Oneill:

I am writing to lodge a formal complaint regarding the letter I received from Timber Creek Sewer Co. regarding the 63.4 % monthly increase they are seeking to meet their annual operating expenses.

First and foremost, I view this increase to be extraordinarily high and without financial merit. A simple statement that identifies a gap in operating expense, versus revenues now needed to bridge this financial gap, is an outrage. It is very difficult for a consumer to understand how new businesses are allowed to open their doors and operate at a reduced fee for a period of time. Then, once established, plead their case for financial assistance to make ends meet and maintain existing service levels.

Without access to complete corporate financials, nor an audit of fiscal responsibility, I am outraged and extremely opposed to any such increase in the monthly sewerage charge I currently pay. Not to mention, this fee is three times what I paid as a homeowner just 2 years ago in St. Joseph, MO.

An extremely concerned consumer,

Tammy Auxier 13100 Woodridge Platte City, MO 64079 (816) 262-1405

FILE COPY

### Lynda R. & Arol D. Trewin

16075 NW 135<sup>th</sup> Street Platte City, MO 64079

August 27,2003

Missouri Public Service Commission Water and Sewer Department P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Office of the Public Counsel Attn: Ruth O'Neill P.O. Box 7800 Jefferson City, MO 65102

#### RE: Timber Creek Sewer Co., Inc. request for a 63.4% Rate Increase

Dear Commissioners and Ruth O'Neill:

This letter is in reference to Willis C. Sherry's letter requesting a 63.4% rate increase in sewer rates for Timber Creek Sewer Company. This letter is to protest that rate increase in the most vehement of terms.

As past President of the Timber Park Home Owners Association, I am very familiar with Mr. Willis Sherry and his way of doing business. Recently, after agreeing in documents filed with Platte County Planning and Zoning to put in a pumping station in order to build a new subdivision less than a mile from Timber Creek he chose to try to bring "Eminent Domain" proceedings against his neighboring land owner in order to try to force a gravity feed to his Sewer Station. He lost this in action in court.

It seems obvious that Mr. Sherry is now trying to raise sewer rates to recoup his legal fees and have current customers pay for his pumping station. Once his new subdivision, which is being developed with his son Darrin Sherry, is complete he will have plenty of customers to pay for this station with current rates.

Also, six other sub-divisions are being built along Running Horse Road and those home owners will be hooked up to Timber Creek Sewer Co., Inc. Any increase in current rates will present the Sherry's with a windfall of profits once the homes are built.

The key words in Mr. Sherry's letter were, "The Company believes these increases in its operating revenues are necessary". Current users of Timber Creek Sewer Company, Inc. <u>know</u> these increases are NOT necessary.

Sincerely,

Arol D. Trewin

Hynda R. Treuris

Lynda R. Trewin

Terrence Bracken 13825 Hunter Ct. Platte City, MO 64079

## FILE COPY

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in response to the proposed rate increases for sewer service. I am sure you are not going to be surprised when I say that I am outraged by the suggested increase. I have never seen a company get up the courage (or ignorance) to try to force such a drastic rate increase to their CAPTIVE customers. This is a blatant abuse of your monopoly position, and shows an utter lack of foresight and good management to have kept up with incremental increases over time. If this is the kind of management that Timber Creek Sewer Company, Inc. employs, then I am afraid for the future ability of the company to maintain its service levels.

To the Public Counsel: If you do not do your own investigation, and recommend to the Commission that this rate increase is outrageous, then I would have to assume that you either do not live in the affected area, or that you will somehow benefit from the rate increase. If, at the conclusion of the investigations, the findings still call for this or similar rate increase, you better have a Public Hearing to explain yourselves.

To the Commission Staff: I cannot imagine that your investigation will not find alternatives to this dramatic increase. I have a suggestion, fire most of the upper management that let Timber Creek Sewer Company, Inc. get in this situation in the first place.

One thing to point out: The letter states that the proposed rate increase is 63.4%, yet also alludes to its miscellaneous service charges and service connection fees need to be updated. This means that the 63.4% increase is just the start, and on top of that you are going to slap on some additional revenue for yourselves. I have to ask at this point, who there is getting a big, fat bonus this year? The letter also states that the proposed rate increase if to 'allow it to meet current operating expenses and provide an adequate return on investments.' I want to know what 'adequate' return is, and also want to know who expects make money off of cleaning crap water?

Justifiably outraged,

Terrence & Broken

Terrence P. Bracken

SEP 1 1 2003

Office of the Public Counsel Attn: Ruth O'Neill P. O. Box 7800 Jefferson City MO 65102

# FILE COPY

Dear Ms. O'Neill

About four years ago, the Platte County Regional Sewer District petitioned the Missouri Public Service Commission to have the Timber Park subdivision residents as their customers. Based partly upon the fact that Willis Sherry, the owner of Timber Creek Sewer Company, assured the Homeowners Association that service would remain relatively stable, the Timber Park Homeowners Association offered to help Timber Creek Sewer Company by canvassing the neighborhood. Almost everyone who lived in the neighborhood at that time signed a petition to keep Timber Creek Sewer Company as our sewer company. Mr. Sherry assured us that he intended to keep the cost of the monthly sewer bill stable with the only increase coming due to a cost of living index increase.

Our question is this: "Where does the \$80,000 figure come from?" Recently the Sherry family, who operates Timber Creek Sewer Company, and who are the developers for a new subdivision, Summit Way, have incurred some legal expenses. As a result of a lawsuit brought against them, they are required to build a new pumping station at Summit Way—something they had not planned to do initially. Does this figure come from these events?

We feel we need to know exactly why they are asking a 63.4% increase. That is certainly not in line with the local cost of living index increase. We would like specific facts, not just a statement that they need the increase "to meet current operating expenses and provide an adequate return on investments."

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Wakefield uld , noncy P.

13/9/03

Sept. 13, 2003

Nancy P. Wakefield 13385 Timber Park Drive Platte City MO 64079 816-858-3670 FAX: 816-858-3940

SEP / JOK

Missouri Public Service Commission Water and Sewer Department P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, Mo 65102 Office of the Public Counsel Attn: Ruth O'Neill P.O. Box 7800 Jefferson City, Mo 65102

Subject: Proposed increase in sewer rates

To Whom It May Concern:

As a concerned citizen I write to you to express my concerns about the proposed increases in sewer rates from the Timber Creek Sewer Co., Inc. I find it hard to believe that the proposed increase of 63.4% is the actual required operational increase for the above mentioned sewer company. I would request an in depth audit of the companies books and accounting practices. This seems to be set up like a monopoly to where if we want sewer service we have no other choice, but the above mentioned company. It would be interesting to see if there were competition as to whether or not the increase would be proposed or not. I understand that this is a typical setup, but a 63.4% increase seems to be to be a get rich quick scheme and as a citizen and a consumer I really do not appreciate being taken advantage of. If this company thinks that the citizens that they service will not challenge this then they are sorely mistaken and mislead. In todays economy people will not stand for such and outrage and there needs to be careful consideration into this increase. I would hope that the commission would find this increase excessive and would defend the people affected by this service. If your findings are in favor of the increase then I would hope that you would provide this documentation to the people in written form and in a public hearing setting.

I look forward to your findings and further communication on this issue.

Concerned citizen,

Brent M. Plumer 15320 N.W. 137<sup>th</sup> St. Platte City, Mo 64079 816.858.4649 913.577.8848

SEP : M

August 30, 2003

Office of the Public Counsel Ruth O'Neill P.O. Box 7800 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Sirs:

This letter is a formal objection to the proposed 63.4% rate increase requested by Timber Creek Sewer Co. It is our opinion a 63.4% rate increase is extreme and, inasmuch as it is insufficiently explained, completely unwarranted.

Timber Creek Sewer Company, in the legally required notification to its customers, says the increase is necessary "to allow it to meet current operating expenses and provide an adequate return on investments."

Presumably, Timber Creek Sewer Company had a reasonable idea of its operating expenses before agreeing to provide sewer services to the Timber Park and Timber Park Meadows subdivisisions. And since these subdivisions are both less than five years old, it seems unreasonable to believe that the expenses of Timber Creek Sewer Company have increased by two-thirds in that period of time. Therefore, one is left with the inevitable conclusion that either Timber Creek Sewer Company failed to adequately plan to meet its operating expenses in advance – or simply wishes to enrich itself with an exorbitant rate hike. We strongly believe the Missouri Public Service Commission should not reward either incompetence on the one hand, or unbridled greed on the other.

These points are reinforced by the fact that Timber Creek Sewer Company's notification letter failed to outline either their expenses or revenue in even the most general way. Thus, we have no way of knowing whether their request has any merit – or is simply an avaricious attempt squeeze unreasonable profits from the consumers they're supposed to serve – but have failed to inform.

Please do not grant the request of the Timber Creek Sewer Company to increase their fees to consumers by 63.4%. Please do feel free to contact either one of us should you wish to discuss this matter in greater detail.

Peter + Qaha

Peter N. and Cecilia M. Shinn

Steve & Brenda Heuton 15810 Meadow Court Platte City, MO 64079

September 5, 2003

Office of Public Counsel Attn: Ruth O'Neill P.O. Box 7800 Jefferson City, MO 65102

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this in concern over the letter sent to us from the Timber Creek Sewer Company. The 63.4% increase seems rather extreme to us. We can see where a small increase maybe necessary to keep up with expenses, but feel this sort of an increase is taking advantage of the customer.

The across the board increase does not seem the fair way to charge the customer. We feel the sewer rate should be charged in accordance with water usage of the winter months instead of a flat rate charge. For example, our household of two people would use less water than a family of four or five people. Therefore, we would use the sewer services less.

The lower sewer rates were used as a selling point when many consumers purchased property in these subdivisions. If this increase takes place, this would no longer be true and feel we were misled.

Sincerely, tere Deuton Brenda Heuton

Steve Heuton Brenda Heuton

### **Robert E. Omundson**

**13455 Sycamore Drive** Platte City, MO 64079 (816) 858-3239 Cell (816) 516-5418

September 6, 2003

Missouri Public Service Commission Water and Sewer Department P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: Timber Creek Sewer Company, Inc. Requested rate increase

#### Good Morning,

I am writing in regards to the request made by the management of Timber Creek Sewer Company, Inc. in Platte City, MO, to raise the monthly customer sewer rates by 63.4%.

I have a couple of questions that were not addressed in the letter of notification. The first question is will any additional subdivisions be added to the Timber Creek Sewer system? If so, won't additional revenue be generated by the new customers? And, if additional customers are going to be added, is this increase being requested at this time in order to fund the additional demands and/or needed upgrades needed by the sewer company to accommodate additional customers? Are they (the Sherry family which owns the Timber Creek Sewer Company and were the developer/builders/real estate agents of the Timber Park subdivision) connecting their new Summit Way subdivision to the Timber Creek Sewer System?

Also, is it just a coincidence that the Timber Creek Sewer Company which is owned by the Sherry family needs such a large increase right now; the very same month that they completed the Timber Park Subdivision and are selling the last house; the same month that they have turned the subdivision common ground over to the home owners association?

Please accept this letter in the spirit of a questioning consumer doing business with a monopolistic service company. I have no complaint at all against any member of the Sherry family (the developers, builders and sales people). They are hard workers, nice people and have done a good job building value priced homes in a well-planned subdivision.

And lastly, I can understand a regular, periodic rate increase being needed to run the business. I can accept a 2 - 8% increase coming on an annual or every other year basis. However, a 63.4% increase in one year, I believe, is not acceptable or appropriate.

I urge the commission to grant an increase to Timber Creek Sewer Company, but at a more reasonable percentage.

Thank you in advance for your attention to my letter.

Sincerely

obert E. Omundson

Cc: Office of Public Counsel Attn: Ruth O'Neill

Missouri Public Service Commission Water and Sewer Department P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Phone: 573/751-3437 or 800/392-4211 Fax: 573/751-1847

Office of the Public Counsel Attn: Ruth O'Neill P.O. Box 7800 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Phone: 573/751-1304 Fax: 573/751-5562

Upon completion of the Commission Staff's and the Public Counsel's investigations, the Company may be requested to send out a second customer notice regarding the results of the investigations. Additionally, the Public Counsel may request that the Commission hold a local public hearing.

However, neither a second customer notice nor a local public hearing will happen automatically. Therefore, please take the time now to express your views about the Company's rate increase requests, and the operation of its system, to the Commission Staff and the Public Counsel.

Regardless of whether the Company sends cut a second customer notice, or whether a local public hearing is eventually held, no increase in rates will take effect without the approval of the Public Service Commission.

Willis C. Sherry President TIMBER CREEK SEWER COMPANY, INC.

Lear Members of the Commission, and the Public Counsel While fully some rate increase vealizing that due to increases be expected operating ca expect a 5% - 8% increase, n 10!! In all my years of working anyone getting a raise in salary I never of this kind, I certainly none of us who are have experienced the kind of returnon nents! Car developement ind has grown Leaps & bounds, I with all these accounts be blentip of income generated should adequate return or investments "(as .) Why such a large increase

#### **VIA FACSIMILE**

September 9, 2003

MO Public Service Commission Water & Sewer Dept. PO Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Office of the Public Counsel Atten. Ruth O'Neill PO Box 7800 Jefferson City, MO 65102

RE: Timber Creek Sewer Company, Inc.

We recently received the enclosed letter regarding a substantial rate increase. My concern is that it appears to be a huge increase for a sewer district. It is hard to imagine that the owners would have left rates the same if they were losing or not making enough money in the past and need almost a 65% increase. I assume you are aware that the owner/officer of the sewer company is a developer that has on-going projects within the sewer district. Are the developments bearing all the costs they should be? Thank you.

Concerned Customer of the Timber Creek Sewer Company, Inc.