



COMMITTEES:
HUMAN SERVICES, CHAIR
HIGHER EDUCATION

Patrick M. Rose
TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 45

COUNTIES:
BLANCO
CALDWELL
HAYS

March 19, 2008

H.S. Buddy Garcia, Chairman
Commissioner's Office
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Re: TCEQ Docket Nos. 2004-1120-UCR, 2004-1671-UCR; SOAH Docket Nos. 582-05-2770, 582-05-2771.

Dear Chairman Garcia,

I write you today on behalf of the Hays County residents in House District 45 that are served by Aqua Texas, Inc. The application before you today and its proposed rate will greatly impact these families, particularly at a time when basic costs like fuel and food are increasing daily.

I believe that the proposed base rate of \$97.09, before providing a single gallon of water, is unjust and excessive. The communities I represent understand that infrastructure improvements must be made. However, Aqua Texas Inc was aware of these needs prior to the purchase of the Texas systems and it should bear responsibility for these operation expenses. My constituents, and the Texans served by Aqua Texas, Inc. across our state, should not bear the full cost of these improvements alone. We must strike a balance that provides these families a fair rate, a base allotment of water, and sound infrastructure.

Thousands of Texans have protested this rate increase, and you and your fellow commissioners have the opportunity to be their advocate. The Legislature must put in place an ombudsman position for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to make sure that consumers have an equal footing. This was proposed by Chairman Harvey Hilderbran during the 79th Legislature, and I strongly supported his efforts. In the meantime, I respectfully request that, as you consider this rate case, you and your fellow commissioners closely adhere to the rules and regulations set out expressly for ratepayers' protection.

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If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to call me at our Capitol office at 512/463-0647. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick M. Rose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "R".

Patrick M. Rose

cc: Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., Commissioner
Larry R. Soward, Commissioner