

Written Testimony - Agenda Item 227/211

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
227	Anita Okotie, Portland State University	Oppose		Yes	03/07/24 1:07 PM

Anita Okotie

Regarding Agenda #211- Authorize the rates and charges for water and water-related services beginning July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

My name is Anita Okotie and I am a graduate student of Portland State University. I am testifying to oppose to the proposed authorization of rates and charges for water and water-related services in Portland, Oregon, beginning July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

As a student residing in Portland, I am deeply concerned about the potential impact of these proposed rate increases on the community. I chose this city for my graduate program because I believed that Portland has built a reputation for its dedication to sustainability and affordability, and it is essential that any changes to water rates align with these values. Primarily, the financial strain that these rate increases would impose on residents and students like myself cannot be overstated.

Many individuals and families in our city are already grappling with financial hardships, and additional expenses such as heightened water rates would only intensify these challenges. It is crucial to recognize the disproportionate impact that these rate increases may have on low-income households and vulnerable communities. Moreover, the surge in rental prices is already contributing to homelessness among various age groups. Furthermore, an escalation in water rates would exacerbate the difficulties faced by those who are already struggling to cover their existing water bills, alongside other essential expenses.

Additionally, I question the necessity of these rate increases and whether they are truly warranted. Have all feasible cost-saving measures been thoroughly explored? Are there alternative avenues for generating revenue that could be pursued instead? It is imperative that the city conducts a comprehensive evaluation of all options before burdening ratepayers with additional financial obligations.

Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony. Your careful consideration of this matter and exploration of potential solutions are greatly acknowledged.

Portland City Council Meeting - Wednesday, March 6, 2024 2:00 p.m.

Agenda Item	First Name	Last Name
211	Robert	Butler