

Letters to the Editors



Water company needs accountability

I thank Mayor Ron Littlefield, Randy Baker and the entire group that formulated the "Fight the Hike" campaign challenging Tennessee-American Water Co.'s huge increase on local water rates. It is about time someone spoke up and made sure TAWC was held accountable for its dramatic rise in rates over the last several years.

I find it ironic that Chattanooga has been blessed with the beautiful Tennessee River flowing literally in the middle of our fair city, yet we have the highest water rates of any major city in Tennessee and TAWC wants to increase them even more.

How about a serious look at how it conducts its business and let them know that it should be considered a privilege to do business with us rather than an opportunity for it to take advantage of its position of being the only water provider in the area.

RICHARD A. JOHNSON

It's OK to demand fair price for water

Affordable water is a right, not a commodity. In the six years that Cal-Am, a company under the same ownership as Tennessee-American, owned the Felton, Calif., water system, our rates more than doubled. For no good reasons, and without our consent. We said enough is enough.

Chattanooga has the right to fight for a fair price for the distribution of water it already owns. If it can't find parity through negotiations with Tennessee-American or its regulating body, then citizens have every right to fight for ownership.

Our community decided that if we didn't do something now, the rate increases would never stop. We didn't want to look back on this time years down the road and wonder how much better our lives could have been if we'd done something to stand up to Cal-Am. We won the fight, and later this month we assume ownership of our water district. Our rates are expected to drop more than 50 percent.

Take a stand, Chattanooga. Ask for a fair price, and if you don't get it, demand it! Your consumer activist group, Fight-theHike.org, needs your participation. Together, you can make a difference now and for years to come.

LARRY FORD
Felton Friends of
Locally Owned Water
Felton, Calif.