

From: [Beth Thompson](#)
To: [Statements](#)
Subject: Statement of Position Submitted by Beth Thompson
Date: Monday, October 31, 2022 2:03:19 PM

Statement of Position Submitted

Name

Beth Thompson

Email

beththompson01@yahoo.com

Docket

w-354,sub39939

Message

Hoping to have our water tested. Recently we have seen a difference in clarity of the water and an "off" taste

From: [Lisa Lauren Camp](#)
To: [Statements](#)
Subject: Statement of Position Submitted by Lisa Lauren Camp
Date: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 12:14:24 PM

Statement of Position Submitted

Name

Lisa Lauren Camp

Email

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Docket

w-354,sub 399398

Message

I live in a rural part of Carteret County where most of the residences rely on septic systems and wells for their sewer and water needs. At some point the county decided to provide a water system that we could choose to use instead of our wells. About one third of the potential users did hook up to this system. I choose to hook up after hurricane Floyd left me without power for 10 days. With no power my well pump didn't work and it was a long 10 days without water. Other factors that led to my decision to join was the good quality of water (less sulphur) and the reasonable price of buying water. I've been buying county water for a few years now and was a satisfied customer. But when I joined I was buying a government provided service. I am opposed to a private corporation owning and operating what should be a local government responsibility. Carteret County offers many public services to its residents...library, education, police and fire protection, airport, transportation and on and on. All of these are paid for with taxes and/or customer fees. In my area a water system was developed that never did become financially self sustaining. The current County Commissioners inherited it but never did figure out how to at least make the system pay for itself. In an effort to cut their losses they offered to sell it to the town of Beaufort for \$1 and Beaufort declined. Their effort to sell must have become public because soon after the county received an offer for Aqua to buy out the system for a large amount of money. This became news and an article was in our local newspaper. A group of concerned citizens organized and started researching Aqua and other for profit water companies and were not impressed with their track record of either quality of water or service. We began to attend County Commissioner meetings to voice our concern. We learned that the commissioner's reasons for wanting to sell were that the entire county was subsidizing one small water system that only served a small percentage of the county population. However, we asked that they consider other options to remedy this situation. We offered to develop a committee to explore several options...grants, increasing the number of customers and raising the price for existing customers. The board did consider these options and in the end 3 out of 7 commissioners did vote to give us a year to work on this issue. However, the board chair broke the tie and the

decision was made to begin the process of selling the system. Their reasoning...the county would benefit greatly from the additional \$9.5 million and they didn't want to be in the water business. During this time Carolina Water made a larger offer to buy the system and they won the bid. We maintain this question: why would this corporation be so interested in our little system that is not self sustaining...and why would they pay so much money for it? During the time we were attending the meetings we stated that we were fairly certain (based on our research) that if the system was sold the price of buying water would increase. So, why not increase the prices now and see if the system can become self sustaining and not require any tax revenues? At least the residents would know that their water fees they are paying would be going back into our county and not into a large corporation and their shareholders. When we attended your public hearing in Beaufort a couple of weeks ago we learned that in February of this year the county commissioners contracted with Carolina Water to operate the water system. As we testified during the hearing we noticed a decline in the quality of the water...tinged water, sediment in standing water and less water pressure. From February to when the sale may be authorized was an opportunity for CW to show that they would maintain the quality of the water we were used to...and already the quality has declined. This doesn't help us feel better about an upcoming sale! To be fair, we have filed formal complaints that have been acknowledged and offers to correct the problem have been made. But will that continue? In hindsight I wish that instead of hooking up to our water system I would have bought a water softening system. Should the sale of the system get approved and I'm unhappy with the water's price and/or quality I will go back to my well water and purchase a water softening system. I am summarizing things as they happened almost a year ago so am relying on my senior citizen memory. But I think my summary is fairly accurate. Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion.