

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BEFORE THE IOWA UTILITIES BOARD

FILED WITH
Executive Secretary
February 24, 2015
IOWA UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:

DISCONNECTION OF PUBLIC UTILITY
WATER SERVICE FOR FAILURE TO PAY
SEWER, WASTEWATER, OR STORM
DRAINAGE BILL [199 IAC CHAPTER 21]

DOCKET NO. RMU-2014-0004

STATEMENT OF POSITION OF THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

The Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”), a division of the Iowa Department of Justice, submits this Statement of Position in accordance with the Board’s Order Proposing Rules to Implement Iowa Code § 476.20(1)(b) issued January 15, 2015, (“Order”) and does hereby state:

1. Iowa Code § 476.20(1)(b) was amended in 2014 to allow a public water utility to enter into an agreement with the governing body of a city utility, city enterprise, combined city utility, or combined city enterprise to disconnect water service if a past-due debt is owed for wastewater service or services of sewer systems, storm water drainage systems, or sewage treatment. The legislation directed the Board to adopt rules implementing the amendments.

2. The Board appointed a stakeholder group to develop proposed rules in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order 80. On December 9, 2014, the stakeholder group submitted its recommendations to the Board.

3. In its January 15, 2015 Order, the Board set forth the proposed rules in a Notice of Intended Action. The Notice of Intended Action directed interested parties to file written statements of position by February 24, 2015.

4. OCA has reviewed the proposed rules as published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin of February 4, 2015, and states that it supports the final adoption of the proposed rules.

WHEREFORE, OCA respectfully offers the foregoing statement of position and looks forward to further participation in this docket.

Respectfully submitted,

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Consumer Advocate

/s/ John S. Long _____

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OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE