

MAYOR
SEAN EARLEN

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Township Administrator
Brandon E. Umba

CFO
Robin Sarlo

Township Clerk
Brandon E. Umba, Acting

July 1st, 2016

Mount Holly Municipal Utilities Authority
1 Park Drive
P.O. Box 486
Mount Holly, NJ 08060
Attn: Jules Thiessen, Chairman

ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Thiessen,

I write today in response to a letter received by the Township of Lumberton regarding the Mount Holly Municipal Utilities Authority's (MUA) recent hearing on connection fee increases for all of its rate-payers. In this notice, the MUA proposes increasing its connection fees on its rate-payers both inside and outside of Mount Holly Township. This connection fee increase equates to roughly a 2.85% increase over last year's fees. Similarly, it is important to note that the MUA also charges separate quarterly rates to its rate-payers who live inside or outside of Mount Holly Township, with the financial benefits of a lower host community rate levied on those who live within Mount Holly.

As you are aware, the MUA benefits from having two (2) wastewater treatment facilities, one located in Mount Holly Township and the other in Lumberton Township. That being said my colleagues on the Lumberton Township Committee and I feel strongly that our residents should benefit from the lower rates enjoyed by those who live within the Township of Mount Holly, since both townships are host communities for the MUA. The fact that the MUA operates on tax exempt land in both municipalities, should equate to both townships receiving equal rate benefits. Similarly, as host municipalities, both of our Township's governing bodies should share equal representation on the MUA's Board of Commissioners. Currently, Mount Holly Township has representation from two of its governing body members on the MUA Board. Those members have authority over rates being levied on our Township's residents, as well as input on what improvements are made to their Lumberton facility, which ultimately could impact our community. This unequal representation on the MUA Board is very concerning to my colleagues and me, which is why I feel compelled to address it to you in this letter.

The Lumberton Township Committee requests the Mount Holly MUA Board of Commissioners to consider the concern's raised in this letter and to consider any remedies it can offer on these issues. If Lumberton Township is to host one of the two (2) wastewater treatment facilities owned by the MUA, then Lumberton Township should benefit from equal representation on its Board as well as the reduced host community rates offered to the residents of Mount Holly. My Colleagues and I look forward to your response and thank you for hearing our concerns. Please feel free to reach out to Brandon E. Umba, our Township Administrator with any questions or concerns at 609-267-3217 ext. 130 or by email at bumba@lumbertontwp.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Earlen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Sean Earlen
Mayor