Dear Honorable Judge Dunderdale.

My name is Ryan Foust and I am complainant #C-2018-2647069.

R-2017-2631441

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

SECRETARY'S BUREAL STON As a resident and consumer of the Reynolds Water Company, I am writing in response to the Joint Petition for Settlement in regards to the proposed rate increase requested by the Reynolds Water Company. In reading this response, you will find a variety of reasons, on various proposed items, that explain why a rate increase of any kind is unaffordable. irresponsible, and detrimental to the fellow consumers of the Reynolds Water Company.

Providing an example to further explain my aforementioned claims, the Reynolds School District, who is also a customer of the Reynolds Water Company, currently qualifies and receives a government issued grant that provides free breakfast and lunches to ALL students that attend the school. Furthermore, students at Reynolds can participate in the Summer Food Service Program, which provides a free breakfast and lunch to children throughout the community all summer long. Once more, during the school year, students from low income families are provided a bag full of "weekend snacks" to ensure that these students are provided proper nutrition on days where they do not attend school. This is one of many clear examples that show a rate increase can not be afforded and will have a negative, detrimental impact on many families throughout the Reynolds community. Money simply cannot be taken from a community that does not have it, let alone in a large amount as proposed by the current 30.4% increase.

In regards to the time period and phases (1&2) proposed to equal the 30.4% increase, we as a Community Advocate Group strongly oppose any increase of any kind over any time period. Nor should any rate take effect immediately, which includes the proposed one days notice from the ruling time span. This includes any tariff supplement. The Community Advocate Group encourages and promotes the Reynolds Water Company to pursue other means of project funding, such as state issued grants, that do not require an increased rate to

its consumers. Nearby water companies (Greenville Water Company) were just awarded \$320,000 in grant money to support their current needs as a Water Company.

Consumers of the Reynolds Water Company are currently paying into a PennVest loan that was taken out by the Water Company in 2007 for project completion. Also, in 2009, the water rate was proposed, accepted, and implemented for projects and facility improvements. All members of the Reynolds Community Advocate Group are appalled to see another proposed increase in less than a 10 year span. Given the funds accumulated and the short time provided from the last increase, it is irresponsible and inconsiderate of the Reynolds Water Company to ask for increased rates and more funding from its consumers. Therefore, The Reynolds Community Advocate Group is not in support of a general increase, nor will any increase, normal or emergency, be accepted until a possibility of the year 2029. Also, a recent survey throughout sixty seven counties in Pennsylvania indicates that the Reynolds Water Company's rates rank among the highest.

One general concern regarding the current fire hydrant policy has been brought to the attention of the Members of the Community Advocate Group, and it is asked that such concern be addressed. The local volunteer fire department does not have a key for direct access of the fire hydrants throughout the community. Currently, if such tragedy were to strike, a member of the Reynolds Water Company would need to be notified and would be required to act in a timely manner to come and unlock the hydrant in order for it to be utilized by the Fire Department. This hinders the productivity of the first responders and emergency personnel, and in turn, jeopardizes the homes and lives of the Reynolds Community. It is asked that immediate, direct access be granted to the fire department, in order to provide proactive and responsible action, as the Reynolds Water Company is not qualified to be a first responding unit.

After reading and considering the issues and concerns pertaining to the Joint Petition Settlement, it is understood that your decision holds a potential negative impact on the members of the Reynolds community. The Reynolds Community Advocate Group trusts that it has effectively communicated that regardless of how the invoice be represented, monthly or quarterly, the consumers of the Reynolds Water Company can not afford an increase! We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Foust

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