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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Rep. Greg Vitali
166th Legislative District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
1001 East Darby Road
Havertown, PA 19083

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Gladys Brown Dutrieuille
The Honorable David W. Sweet
The Honorable John F. Coleman, Jr.
The Honorable Ralph V. Yanora
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Docket No. A-2019-3015173 – Proposed Sale of the Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority (DELCORA) Assets to Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

As the longest-serving member of the Delaware County legislative delegation, I have spent nearly three decades defending my constituents from myriad environmental and economic threats. Today, I write to defend them from the threat of a corporate takeover of our public wastewater system.

Before you is the application of Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater to acquire the assets of the Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority (DELCORA). Beyond the troubling process questions around a lack of transparency and failure to use a public bidding process, there are very real concerns about the impact of this proposed sale on the people and businesses served by the wastewater system.

While Aqua Pennsylvania is a respected water utility in the Commonwealth, it has, by comparison, very little experience as a wastewater system operator. In fact, published reports have estimated Aqua Pennsylvania's total statewide wastewater customer base to be around 35,000, while DELCORA serves roughly 165,000 customers. In other words, Aqua would grow its business by nearly five times its current customer base with just this one transaction. That may be beneficial to the company's shareholders, but the company has failed to show how it would benefit the people of Delaware County.

Experience matters. For more than half a century, DELCORA has provided safe, efficient and effective wastewater services to the people of Delaware County. Given Aqua Pennsylvania's for-profit motive, there is a very real risk of significant rate increases to customers as a result of this proposed sale. I also am gravely concerned about the potential for environmental harm as a result of a less-experienced wastewater service provider taking over the DELCORA system.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you support the recommendation of Administrative Law Judges Angela T. Jones and F. Joseph Brady to reject this deal. It is not in the best interests of the public and poses a legitimate risk of harm to those served by the DELCORA system. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Vitali". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Greg Vitali
Pennsylvania State Representative
166th Legislative District

Cc: Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary, Public Utility Commission