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Senate of Pennsylvania

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COMMITTEE

March 9, 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:

We write today to express our serious concerns about a proposed sale of the wastewater system assets of the Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority (DELCORA).

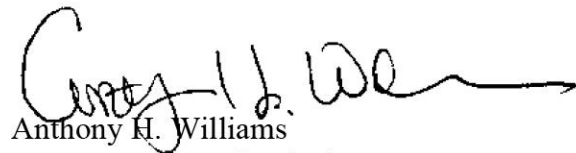
The proposed acquisition of the DELCORA system by Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater is not in the public's interest and would jeopardize the economic well-being of the communities we represent. Administrative Law Judges Angela T. Jones and F. Joseph Brady stated in their recommendation to reject this deal that Aqua Pennsylvania failed to prove that its proposed acquisition of the DELCORA system would provide substantial public benefits. We'll go a step further and assert that this proposed sale would cause substantial harm to the public.

First, it's important to note that DELCORA is, in its own right, a sophisticated wastewater system operator with an excellent service record. In fact, DELCORA has nearly five times the number of wastewater customers as Aqua Pennsylvania's current wastewater customer base across the entire Commonwealth, according to published reports. Contrary to privatizations where the private entity offers benefits to the acquired municipal system, this proposed transaction would only help Aqua Pennsylvania quintuple its wastewater business by acquiring a public system that

has far more experience in managing large wastewater systems than the profit-driven company attempting to gobble it up.

Given Aqua Pennsylvania's limited experience and customer base in wastewater service, this proposed privatization offers little benefits to the public over DELCORA's current operations. For this reason, we respectfully request that you support the recommendation of Judges Jones and Brady and deny Aqua Pennsylvania's application to acquire DELCORA's assets. This proposed deal places the interests of shareholders ahead of the interests of the public and risks significant financial harm to well over 100,000 Pennsylvanians – many of whom are struggling to make ends meet in today's pandemic-caused economic downturn. Thank you for your consideration.

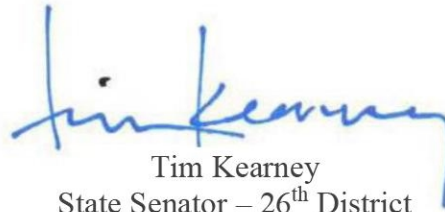
Sincerely,



Anthony H. Williams
State Senator – 8th District



John Kane
State Senator – 9th District



Tim Kearney
State Senator – 26th District

Copy: Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary, Public Utility Commission