



June 9, 2020

At a time where silence about deep-rooted racial and social injustice has been shattered by millions of Americans speaking out with one clear message – that change must begin now – I add my own voice to the national call for meaningful efforts to address racism and division in our communities.

As an African American Chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, I understand the challenges and obstacles that many face because of the color of their skin, their gender, or other factors that can be used to discriminate. I also understand that utility service - including energy, water, communication and transportation - is a human rights issue and a civil rights issue. Our public utilities are essential to bringing services to the most vulnerable members of our communities, without which our citizens cannot grow and thrive.

I am uplifted by strong statements of solidarity regarding diversity and racial equality from numerous utilities, including PECO, Aqua America, PPL, Duquesne Light, FirstEnergy, and many others. The entire utility community is an active part of this conversation, working together to ensure that our utilities are as diverse as the communities they serve; addressing affordability for at-risk households; attracting a new generation of dedicated and talented people to help drive innovation; and underscoring the importance of serving people of all colors and backgrounds.

I stand with our public utilities and with my colleagues across the country – including the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) – in a pledge that we will listen to those who are suffering; we will work to address the pain in our communities; we will face these issues together; and we will move our states and our nation forward.

Gladys Brown Dutrieuille
Chairman, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission