



Senate of Pennsylvania

May 5, 2020

Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chair
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
P. O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA. 17105-3265

Dear Chairman Brown Dutrieuille:

I am writing to respectfully request that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission suspend review of the Pennsylvania American Water Company's (PAWC) request for an increase of its overall water and wastewater rates and initiate appropriate proceedings, which are consistent with applicable law and regulations and include ample opportunity for public input, to thoroughly vet the justification and need for this substantial rate increase.

As you know, PAWC has requested that the PUC grant an overall rate increase request of \$138.6 million over two years for all of its water and wastewater operations. With more than 1.7 million Pennsylvanians currently out of work and seeking unemployment compensation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many families are struggling with the stress and anxiety of being unable to work and the worry of how they are going to pay their bills. While it is not unreasonable for a company to seek sufficient revenue to cover operating and capital expenses and earn a reasonable return on their investment, I am concerned that, in this uncertain environment, granting the company's request will place an undue hardship on ratepayers. As example, by the company's own projections, an "average" residential wastewater customer could see their rates skyrocket from about \$43 a month to almost \$77 a month in year 2. That's nearly an 80 percent increase and would ultimately raise wastewater rates from \$516 per year to \$924 for the average customer.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith L. Schwank".

Judith L. Schwank
Senator- 11th District

JLS/ TG
CC All Concerned Citizens