



PITTSBURGH BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS COALITION

August 14, 2020

Ms. Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
PA Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Chiavetta,

We are writing to formally express our strong opposition to the multi-year rate increase proposed by Pennsylvania American Water (PAW).

In our capacity as State, County, and City legislators, we represent a far reaching constituency, including 95% of the traditionally African American communities in Allegheny County and the Pittsburgh region. The multi-year request submitted by PAW would increase the typical residential water and wastewater bill by an estimated 24%. According to a report by the Pittsburgh Tribune Review, "the average Pennsylvania American Water customer currently receives a monthly \$118.27 water and sewer bill. After the second round of rate hikes kick in, the bill would increase to \$146.58 monthly - an increase of 23.9%."

We believe that the combined increases would be particularly burdensome for our residents. We understand the need for continued infrastructure updates to ensure the safety of the provided services, but we cannot allow them to place a financial burden on constituents throughout our collective districts.

Additionally, we are requesting reporting on Pennsylvania American Water's diversity and inclusion records, specifically hiring and contracting. The agency has requested a rate increase that will deeply impact residents of color, we would like to quantify their equity measures.

PBEOC Members: PA State Representatives. Jake Wheatley, Ed Gainey and Summer Lee;
Pittsburgh Councilmen Rev. Ricky Burgess and Daniel Lavelle; as well as County Councilpersons DeWitt Walton and Olivia Bennett

Thank you for noting this letter as part of the official record. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at (412) 204-7029.

Yours in Service,



PA State Representative Jake Wheatley



PA State Representative Ed Gainey



PA State Representative Summer Lee



PA State Representative Austin Davis



Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess



Councilman Daniel Lavelle



County Councilman DeWitt Walton



County Councilwoman Olivia Bennett