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Senate of Pennsylvania

June 28, 2021

COMMITTEES

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
400 North Street, Third Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

In Re: Docket No. R-2021-3024773
Docket No. R-2021-3024774
Docket No. R-2021-3024779

Dear Administrative Law Judge Vero,

I write to oppose the rate increases proposed by the Pennsylvania Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) for water, wastewater, and stormwater services to approximately 80,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in Pittsburgh and the surrounding communities. Thankfully our economy is beginning to recover from the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many families are regaining their financial footing and businesses are seeing more signs of stability. Now is the wrong time impede that progress with a rate increase.

We see a new landscape with fresh leadership coming from the federal government. For years, leaders in Washington DC abdicated their responsibility to help communities provide safe and affordable drinking water. The White House recently announced an infrastructure plan that includes \$55 billion for water infrastructure. The Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water is holding stakeholder roundtables across the country to discuss the needs of utility companies and their customers. I would like to see whether PWSA's needs can be met with the infusion of federal resources before going back to rate payers. Additionally, the state is sitting on a \$7 billion surplus. I would like PWSA to engage with state lawmakers to see if a portion of those funds could be used to finance stormwater resilience, lead abatement, and other infrastructure needs.

PWSA's work in lead line replacement is commendable and I appreciate the need to address stormwater challenges in our region, especially in light the severe storms our region sees that are linked to climate change. As a public utility, I recognize that with each dollar that comes in, it gets re-invested back into the system and not into the pockets of shareholders. While I believe that PWSA submitted this rate increase with careful consideration of its customers and the needs of the water system it maintains, a rate increase on the backs of families and small businesses as they try and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic is not something I can support at this time.

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Administrative Law Judge Vero
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsey M. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Lindsey M. Williams
38th Senatorial District