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SOUTHEAST DELEGATION
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May 23, 2022

Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chair
Public Utility Commission
Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

John F. Coleman, Jr., Vice Chair
Public Utility Commission
Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Ralph V. Yanora, Commissioner
Public Utility Commission
Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Commissioners:

The Southeast Delegation writes to you today because we believe every Pennsylvanian deserves access to affordable and quality public utilities, including water, sewer and electricity. As you are aware, several utility companies that service our constituents in the Southeast have recently requested rate increases. This is at a time when we are facing historic levels of inflation, which reached 6.3% in April this year, increasing the cost of goods and services. The burden of these rate increases falls most severely on the lowest-earning families, many of whose income is spent primarily on basic needs such as food and utilities. Sudden utility rate increases will lead to more Pennsylvanians having to decide between keeping the lights on or putting food on the table.

Recently, Pennsylvania American Water proposed an increase that would see their average customer pay nearly 25% more by 2023. We believe the PUC should follow the precedent of containing utility rate increases. As you likely recall, in 2021, PECO requested a rate increase of 9.65% for the average residential customer. However, the PUC approved a lower amount, which increased the average residential customer's electricity bill by 6.6% instead. Also last year, Aqua Pennsylvania proposed a rate increase amounting to 17.3% and 33.2% for water and wastewater, respectively. As of last Monday, the PUC approved a lower rate increase than what was requested by Aqua Pennsylvania. These decisions still provided rate increases that allowed these companies to invest in their infrastructure and communities, while being mindful of consumers who are bearing the increased costs of utilities, as well as an increased cost of living.

Capitol Building, 103 Irvis Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 · 717-783-4090 · www.pahouse.com/SouthEastDelegation

As more rate increase requests are heard by the PUC, we encourage you to put the interests of the consumer first. We strongly support the PUC denying or limiting any rate increases that will push our seniors, working families and marginalized communities further into economic uncertainty.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jennifer O'Mara
Southeast Delegation Chair
165th Legislative District
Delaware County

Rep Joanna McClinton
House Democratic Leader
191st Legislative District
Delaware & Philadelphia Counties

Rep. Tina Davis
House Democratic Caucus Secretary
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Rep. Danielle Friel Otten
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Chester County

Rep. Mark Rozzi
126th Legislative District
Berks County

Rep. Benjamin V. Sanchez
153rd Legislative District
Montgomery County

Rep. Joeseph G. Webster
150th Legislative District
Montgomery County

Rep. Dan K. Williams
74th Legislative District
Chester County