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Senate of Pennsylvania

May 6, 2022

Chairwoman Gladys Brown Dutrieuille  
Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Keystone Bldg.  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairwoman Brown Dutrieuille:

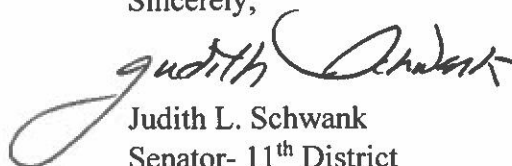
I am writing to respectfully request that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) suspend the review of the Pennsylvania American Water Company's (PAWC) request for an increase to its overall water and wastewater rates and initiate appropriate proceedings, which are consistent with applicable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

As you are aware, on April 29, 2022, PAWC submitted a rate adjustment request to the PUC seeking an annual revenue increase of \$173.2 million. If such an increase was approved, the average consumer would see their monthly water bill increase from \$60.49 to \$75.49 and their wastewater bill increase from \$76.64 to \$95.69. Additionally, two years ago nearly to the day, PAWC submitted a previous substantial rate increase which was ultimately approved.

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 economic environment, granting PAWC's request will place an undue hardship on consumers. Across the board, consumers are seeing prices increase and people are struggling to make ends meet. At the time of the writing of this letter, the inflation rate is the highest it's been in the U.S. in over 40 years. Consumers are bearing the brunt of this hardship. Families across Berks County and the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are hurting as they watch their paychecks not go as far as they once did.

With that said, I believe now is simply not the time to place further financial pressure on Pennsylvania families by increasing the rates of crucial utilities. I thank you for considering my request and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

  
Judith L. Schwank  
Senator- 11<sup>th</sup> District

CC: All Concerned Citizens  
JLS/SAT