

**CRAWFORD, MERCER, PARTS OF
ERIE AND WARREN COUNTIES**

- ☐ SENATE BOX 203050
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3050
(717) 787-1322 • FAX (717) 772-0577
- ☐ 100 HADLEY ROAD, SUITE 9
GREENVILLE, PA 16125
(724) 588-8911 • FAX (724) 588-5464
TOLL FREE (800) 457-2040
- ☐ 16678 McMATH AVENUE
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(814) 337-8132 • FAX (814) 337-5055
- ☐ 99 ERIE STREET, SUITE 1
EDINBORO, PA 16412
(814) 734-2783 • FAX (814) 734-2789

MICHELE BROOKS
STATE SENATOR, 50TH DISTRICT



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November 4, 2022

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
2nd Floor North, Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

I write today regarding **Dockets R-2021-3027385 and R-2021-3027386.**

The New Wilmington Municipal Authority purchases the water supplied to Borough residents, businesses, and customers from AQUA pursuant to a 30-year contract that both parties signed in 2008.

In July 2022, the Authority received notice from AQUA that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) had raised their rates by 150%, effective June 21, 2022. That means that the Authority's annual cost of water will increase by approximately \$600,000, and for a customer, will be approximately an additional \$1,800 per year. The Authority has dipped into capital improvement funds to pay the increase in cost rather than immediately passing it on to customers, however, they cannot delay these much needed and planned improvements, and cannot afford to continue covering this increase. Therefore, the Authority will have to pass this outrageous burden onto these rural customers in an area that does not have a significant commercial base.

AQUA had advised the Authority that the PUC was considering rate changes, but that they should not participate in the process. Due to their decades-long relationship with AQUA, the Authority relied on them and depended on their 30-year contract, but unfortunately now months later, the Authority has learned that AQUA never presented New Wilmington's objections to the PUC.

New Wilmington Municipal Authority is now appealing this rate increase based on the following reasons: (1) they were not represented in the hearing, (2) AQUA did not keep its promise to represent the Authority's interests, and (3) this is an egregiously exorbitant increase. **I am fully supportive of New Wilmington Municipal Authority's appeal, and hope that the PUC reconsiders the harsh approval of this increase, considering the opposition by and burden on the Authority and its customers.**

Please keep me informed of this situation, and do not hesitate to reach out to my office should you have any questions or concerns regarding my position in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Brooks".

Michele Brooks
Senator, 50th Senatorial District

CC: Senator Tommy Tomlinson, Chair, Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee
JJ Livingston, Deputy Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, PA Public Utility Commission