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June 11, 2024
Sent via email

Re. Docket No: R-2023-3043189
R-2023-3043190

Honorable Stephen DeFrank
Honorable Kimberly Barrow
Honorable John Coleman
Honorable Kathryn Zerfuss
Honorable Ralph Yanora
PA Public Utility Commission
400 North Street
Keystone Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Chairman DeFrank, Vice-Chair Barrow, and Commissioners Yanora, Zerfuss, and Coleman:

Earlier today, I delivered to your Public Utility Commission Office the signatures of more than 5,000 Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC) customers who are urging you to reject the proposed water and wastewater rate increases that are currently before you for consideration (see attached).

To underscore the reality that a majority of Pennsylvanians (63%) are worried about their personal financial situation, with majorities indicating worry regardless of gender, age, party, race, or caregiving status, you may be interested in some additional results of a recent AARP voter survey of likely Pennsylvania voters 50-plus including:

- When asked how important the cost of utilities is to them when deciding their vote this November, 68% reported they are extremely/very important. This rises to 82% of Black voters 50-plus.

- Many issues are driving cost concerns for voters 50-plus, but the clear top trio are utilities, food, and healthcare/prescription drugs; and 48% indicated that utilities, like water, electricity, home heating are the biggest or second biggest concern.

On behalf of our 1.8 million members, we applaud your decision to hold in-person public hearings earlier this year on this matter and urge you listen to their voices and reject the PAWC proposed rate increase.

Respectfully,

Bill Johnston-Walsh
State Director
AARP Pennsylvania

Attachment