



July 2, 2024

Ms. Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

On behalf of the members of the House Southeast Delegation, we are writing to express our opposition to the recent AQUA filing of a rate increase request.

Many of those who live and work in the collar counties are concerned about the significant financial hardships that the proposed rate increase would create. Granting AQUA's request for an almost 25% water rate increase would create an undue burden on our communities, hurting households and businesses, alike.

Balancing the need for infrastructure upgrades with providing affordable water services is a primary concern. However, it has become clear that this rate increase request is excessive. Given that the net income of Essential Utilities, AQUA's parent company, grew 7 percent in 2023, it is apparent that the company is profitable and financially stable. Additionally, customers' bills currently include distribution system improvement charges, indicating that funds are already being allocated for the infrastructure updates.

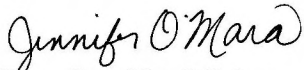
Considering that this would be AQUA's second water rate hike since 2022, such a rate increase is not in the public's interest. This increased rate would likely result in the following impacts on the community per month—residential customers would pay \$18 more, commercial customers would pay \$122 more, and industrial customers would pay \$609 more. Over one year, this would lead residential customers to pay \$216 more, \$1,464 more for commercial customers, and \$7,308 more for industrial customers.


The overwhelming feedback from our constituents highlights the detrimental impact this proposed rate hike would have on their financial stability and overall quality of life. Many families are already struggling to make ends meet, and this increase would only exacerbate their

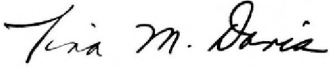
financial woes. Small businesses, the backbone of our local economy, would face heightened operational costs, potentially leading to reduced services, increased costs to consumers, or even closures. Larger industrial customers, who provide essential jobs and economic contributions, would also be adversely affected, potentially resulting in decreased investments in our region.

In light of these significant concerns, we respectfully urge the Public Utility Commission to reject AQUA's rate increase request. It is imperative that we find a more balanced solution that addresses infrastructure needs without placing an undue financial burden on our communities.


Thank you for your consideration,


  
Rep. Jennifer O'Mara  
SE Delegation Chair  
165<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Delaware County

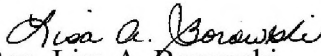
  
Rep. Leanne Krueger  
Democratic Caucus Administrator  
161<sup>st</sup> Legislative District  
Delaware County


  
Rep. Tina M. Davis  
Democratic Caucus Secretary  
141<sup>st</sup> Legislative District  
Bucks County

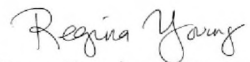
  
Rep. Christina Sappey  
SE Delegation Vice Chair  
158<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Chester County

  
Rep. Nancy Guent  
SE Delegation Secretary  
152<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District  
Montgomery County

  
Rep. Perry Warren  
SE Delegation Bucks County Vice Chair  
31<sup>st</sup> Legislative District  
Bucks County

  
Rep. Lisa A. Borowski  
SE Delegation Freshman Vice Chair  
168<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Delaware County

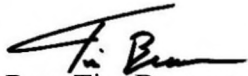
  
Rep. David M. Dellosa  
SE Delegation Subcommittee Chair  
162<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District  
Delaware County



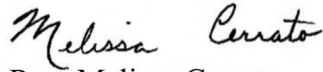
Rep. Regina Young  
SE Delegation Subcommittee Chair  
185<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Delaware County



Rep. Heather Boyd  
163<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District  
Delaware County



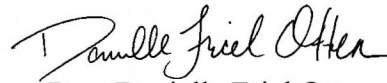
Rep. Tim Brennan  
29<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Bucks County



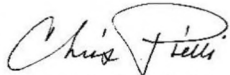
Rep. Melissa Cerrato  
151<sup>st</sup> Legislative District  
Montgomery County



Rep. Napoleon Nelson  
154<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Montgomery County



Rep. Danielle Friel Otten  
155<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Chester County



Rep. Chris Pielli  
156<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Chester County