



R-2024-3047822

July 2, 2024

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

RCVD PUC SEC BUR
JUL 2 2024 AM 11:15

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.

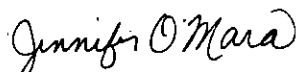
Considering that this would be AQUA's second water rate hike since 2022, such a rate increase is not in the public's interest. This increased rate would likely result in the following impacts on the community per month—residential customers would pay \$18 more, commercial customers would pay \$122 more, 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.

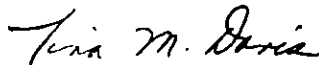
Thank you for your consideration,



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



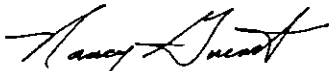
Rep. Leanne Krueger
Democratic Caucus Administrator
161st Legislative District
Delaware County



Rep. Tina M. Davis
Democratic Caucus Secretary
141st Legislative District
Bucks County



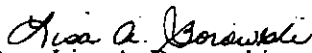
Rep. Christina Sappey
SE Delegation Vice Chair
158th Legislative District
Chester County



Rep. Nancy Guent
SE Delegation Secretary
152nd Legislative District
Montgomery County



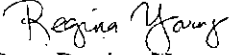
Rep. Perry Warren
SE Delegation Bucks County Vice Chair
31st Legislative District
Bucks County




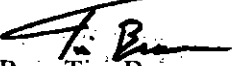
Rep. Lisa A. Borowski
SE Delegation Freshman Vice Chair
168th Legislative District
Delaware County

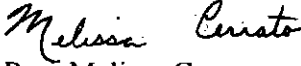



Rep. David M. Dellosa
SE Delegation Subcommittee Chair
162nd Legislative District
Delaware County



Rep. Regina Young
SE Delegation Subcommittee Chair
185th Legislative District
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Rep. Heather Boyd
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156th Legislative District
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