

JESSICA BENHAM, MEMBER  
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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary  
Public Utility Commissioners  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

R-2025-3055010

ROUD PUC SEC BUR  
JUL 11 2025 AM 10:22

Dear Secretary Homsher and Public Utility Commissioners,

Recently, I was informed by the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate that the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) filed for authorization with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) for a staggering 25.9% rate increase for 2025, and a further 6.7% rate increase for 2027. Given the rising cost of practically every consumer good and vital, life-sustaining service I was personally shocked at the size and tone-deafness of this particular rate increase request. My district, full of proud and resilient Pittsburghers, have seen their daily living costs increase dramatically in the past few years. Seniors on fixed incomes and working families call my office daily, trying to find any relief for the serious financial strains they continue to endure. Yet, utilities have consistently requested rate increases far ahead of inflation or rising construction costs without due regard to the very real, undue burden these increases place on ratepayers.

I understand well that all utility entities must occasionally adjust rates to maintain safe and effective service. However, the consistently high requests from many utilities across the commonwealth these last several years have continued to be unreasonable. While the general assembly empowers the PUC to assess and rule on these requests, I fear that we are drawing nearer a time as a commonwealth where rate increases may be in need of stricter limitations defined in statute. I am hopeful that the PUC, PWSA, and all utility entities recognize that their operations cannot be conducted in a vacuum and without a serious understanding of the impacts such choices make on the ability of thousands of Pennsylvanians to pay their bills, buy groceries, raise families, retire with dignity, and do more than merely labor to stay alive.

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I look forward to continuing advocacy on behalf of my district and fellow Pennsylvanians who are, frankly, sick and tired that these rate increases are even proposed let alone enacted. Please feel free to contact me at any time. I invite you all to visit my district, meet with my constituents, and understand the tangible impact utility rate increases will have on working people, children, seniors, and those fighting poverty every day.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Benham".

Rep. Jessica Benham  
36<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



36

# House of Representatives

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PITTSBURGH PA 150

9 JUL 2025 PM 8 L



**DOG  
AWAY!**  
#DogBite



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