

JOHN A. LAWRENCE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
13TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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Chairman Stephen DeFrank
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

DATE OF DEPOSIT

DEC 27 2025

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Re: Comments on Docket #A-2025-3058927

December 27, 2025

Dear Chairman DeFrank –

I write concerning the aforementioned docket number regarding the proposed merger between American Water Works and Essential Utilities.

First, please note that I intend to submit comments regarding this proposal during the anticipated comment period.

Second, I am deeply troubled by the Commission's decisions surrounding the filing period for formal protests and petitions on this matter.

The Commission provided less than thirty days during the month of December to submit formal protests and petitions on this matter – a few weeks at the end of the year when many are otherwise engaged with Hanukkah, Christmas, and other year-end celebrations. The proposal is not inconsequential; it concerns a proposed merger that affects a significant percentage of water and wastewater ratepayers across the Commonwealth.

The Commission has adopted the following mission statement:

The mission of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is to balance the needs of consumers and utilities; ensure safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates; protect the public interest; educate consumers to make independent and informed utility choices; further economic development; and foster new technologies and competitive markets in an environmentally sound manner.¹

¹ <https://www.puc.pa.gov/about-the-puc/>

The proposed merger will undoubtedly concern "*safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates.*" Providing less than thirty days over the December holidays for formal protests and petitions is hardly indicative of "*protecting the public interest,*" nor is it considerate of the "*needs of consumers,*" nor will it help "*educate consumers to make independent and informed utility choices.*" That the Commission chose to schedule a matter of such gravity and public interest in this manner, and in contravention of the Commission's own mission statement, is of serious concern to me.

I appreciate this opportunity to offer these comments to the Commission.

Sincerely -

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Lawrence", written over the printed name.

John Lawrence
State Representative
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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TO:

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