

**BRENDA M. PUGH, MEMBER**  
120<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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January 29, 2026

Mathew Homsher, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Comments on Public Utility Commission (PUC) Docket No. A-2025-3058927  
Proposed Merger of Essential Utilities, Inc. and American Water Works Company, Inc.

Dear Secretary Homsher,

I write concerning the proposed merger between American Water Works Company Inc. and Essential Utilities, Inc.

The outcome of this proceeding will define the structure and impact of what will ultimately become the largest regulated water and wastewater utility in the nation. The implications of this massive consolidation of water assets under one corporate umbrella cannot be underestimated, especially when contextually framed by Act 12 of 2016 and the upwards of 30 "fair market value" acquisitions approved by the Commission since its enactment.

My constituents in the 120<sup>th</sup> legislative district, like many Pennsylvanians, are rightly concerned that this merger will only worsen a decade-long trend of water and wastewater rate increases often followed by no discernable improvement in service quality.

I respectfully urge the Commissioners to uphold to the highest degree of standards set forth in Pennsylvania statute as it relates to their conveyance of certificates of public convenience. Specifically, I request that pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission in 66 P.a. C.S. §1103, the Commissioners:

- Establish "just and reasonable conditions" to the certificate approval, ensuring affordability guarantees, verifiable service quality improvements, a means of local accountability, and equitable infrastructure investment and recovery outcomes.

- Rigorously investigate whether changes proposed by the applicants materially fulfil the standard of being “necessary or proper for the service, accommodation, convenience or safety of the public.”
- Reject the applicant’s request for expedited approval to ensure both Commission staff and stakeholders have adequate time to verify data, plans, cost estimates, and any other metrics conducive to a transparent and trustworthy outcome.

I certainly appreciate the complexity and weight of the task set before the Commissioners. I also have confidence that they will do right by Pennsylvanians in ensuring every possible avenue is pursued which would lead to measurable accountability and moderation of outcomes.

Thank you for your attention to my comments and the requests made herein. Should you wish to discuss any matter addressed in this letter, I can be reached by contacting my District or Harrisburg office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Pugh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "P".

Brenda Pugh  
PA State Representative  
120<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Cc: JJ Livingston, Director of Legislative Affairs



**House of Representatives**

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
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