



Rep. Maureen Madden, Chair

Monroe County

**325 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202115
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2115
(717) 787-5811**

Dec. 19, 2023

Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary's Bureau
PA Public Utility Commission
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re:

Docket Nos. R-2023-3043189 (PAW Water)
R-2023-3043190 (PAW Wastewater)
R-2023-3042804 (CUPA Water)
R-2023-3042805 (CUPA Wastewater)

Dear Secretary Chiavetta,

While members of our Northeast Delegation have separately requested the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission suspend the recent requests by Pennsylvania American Water Co. and Community Utilities of Pennsylvania to significantly raise their rates so public input hearings can be scheduled in our region of the Commonwealth, we also wanted to write a separate letter outlining our reasons for standing so firmly with the concerned members of our communities.

PA American Water's Nov. 8 request from PUC to approve water rate increases ranging from 25% to 32% for homes, businesses and industries, and Community Utilities of PA's proposed 57% increase filed Nov. 9 impacting 3,200 customers in parts of Northampton, Monroe and Pike counties, are a slap in the face to customers who are already scratching and clawing to pay bills and make ends meet. This is especially true considering PAW asked for a 24.8% hike in water rates in April – and was granted a reduced 14.5% increase by PUC.

We are not naïve to the complexities and the circumstances companies like PAW and CUPA face with the public utility code. We know Pennsylvania features a lot of concerns with old infrastructure and antiquated equipment, which makes implementation of federal rules and regulations difficult.

In no way does this justify a company jacking its rates so substantially that customers are filled with dread and worry about how they can afford such a sudden and extensive rate increase.

Understanding that the PUC's role means considering the public interest of any such decision, our Delegation respectfully asks that common sense and pragmatism are at the forefront of any verdict in response to such excessive rate-increase requests.

The constituents in our respective communities who are rightfully expressing their concerns to us are thoughtful, community-minded people who understand the need to address infrastructure concerns. But not at a cost that quite literally so negatively impacts their own finances.

Thank you for understanding and considering our Delegation's point of view.

CC: J.J. Livingston, Legislative Director, PA PUC

Respectfully,

Members of the Northeast Delegation



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Handwritten signature of Maureen E. Madden in black ink.

Rep. Maureen Madden, Chair
115th Legislative District

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Rep. Jeanne McNeill, Vice Chair
133rd Legislative District

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Rep. Bridget Kosierowski, Secretary/Treasurer
114th Legislative District

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Rep. Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz
129th Legislative District

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Rep. Kyle Donahue
113th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Robert L. Freeman in blue ink.

Rep. Robert Freeman
136th Legislative District

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Rep. Manuel Guzman
127th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Jim Haddock in black ink.

Rep. Jim Haddock
118th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Kyle Mullins in black ink.

Rep. Kyle Mullins
112th Legislative District

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Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski
121st Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Tarah Probst in black ink.

Rep. Tarah Probst
189th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Mark Rozzi in black ink.

Rep. Mark Rozzi
126th Legislative District

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Rep. Steve Samuelson
135th Legislative District

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Rep. Mike Schlossberg
132nd Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Peter Schweyer in black ink.

Rep. Peter Schweyer
134th Legislative District

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Rep. Joshua Siegel
22nd Legislative District