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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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URBAN AFFAIRS  
INSURANCE

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

DELEGATIONS

ALLEGHENY

May 1, 2020

Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chairwoman  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North St.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room N-304  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairwoman Dutrieuille,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent rate increase request filed by Pennsylvania American Water to the Public Utilities Commission. I am urging you, in your capacity as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission, to hold public hearings and conduct investigations into the necessity of the requested rate increases.

I am fully aware that, Pennsylvania American Water began the process of examining investments already made and those needed to continue to ensure safe and reliable water and wastewater services, prior to the start of Covid-19. I am troubled at the fact that they would continue on with their request for such an increase, regardless if it does not go into effect until 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic has left millions of Pennsylvania's without jobs, and the economic impact that this has had on many families throughout the Commonwealth will not simply be resolved when people are permitted to go back to work. The impact of this virus can last well into 2021 and constituents who are serviced by Pennsylvania American Water should not have to be fearful that they will face an increase on one of their most basic human needs; water and wastewater.

Furthermore, it has been brought to my attention that the Public Utility Commission unanimously approved a settlement that allowed Pennsylvania American Water to raise water and wastewater rates in 2018. The primary factor for this increase was for \$1.26 billion in investments to replace and upgrade aging infrastructure. It is alarming that two years later they are asking for another rate increase to do the same.

In my capacity as a State Legislator, I represent the following areas who are serviced by Pennsylvania American Water: Clairton, Duquesne, McKeesport, Munhall, and Lincoln Borough. It is my job as a State Legislator and Democratic Secretary of the House Consumer

Affairs Committee to ensure that these constituents have access to safe, affordable, quality drinking and wastewater services. An additional increase on these services will have a detrimental impact on many Pennsylvanians, and that is why I am requesting that you hold public hearings and further investigate this request before approval.

I understand the need for continued infrastructure updates to ensure the safety of the provided water services but cannot allow them to place a financial burden on constituents throughout the Commonwealth. Thank you in advanced for your consideration of these requests. If you would like to discuss thus further, please feel free to contact me at 717-783-1018.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Austin Davis".

Austin Davis

State Representative

35<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

CC: The Honorable Brad Roae, House Consumer Affairs Committee Chairman

The Honorable Robert Matzie, House Consumer Affairs Committee Democratic Chairman