



NEW HOPE BOROUGH

123 New Street
New Hope, PA 18938

215-862-3347

www.NewHopeBorough.org

Laurence D. Keller
Mayor

Connie Gering
Council President

Laurie McHugh
Council Vice President

Peter Gray
Borough Manager

July 27, 2022

Bucks County Board of Commissioners
Bucks County Administration Building
55 E. Court Street
1st Floor, Commissioners' Meeting Room
Doylestown, PA 18901

Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority Board Members
1275 Almshouse Road
Warrington, PA 18976

Re: Opposition to Potential Sale of BCWSA Water and/or Sewer Utilities

Honorable Commissioners and Board Members,

Please accept this letter in opposition to a potential sale of BCWSA water and/or sewer utilities to Aqua. We are advised that as of July 13, 2022, BCWSA has entered into an Exclusivity Agreement with Aqua to negotiate a sale of sewer utilities to be consummated within the next 12 months. Such a transaction would not be in the best interest of our residents for the reasons expressed by BCWSA.

Specifically, the sale of water and/or sewer utilities to a private entity like Aqua has been proven to lead to higher escalating rates and fees. Local Municipalities (let alone average citizens) have virtually no influence or recourse in preventing these rates and fees from drastically increasing. Rather than simply being held accountable to the public for the provision of safe drinking water and for safe sanitary sewer waste collection and treatment, Aqua is also driven by making profits. Private companies such as Aqua cannot be expected to always have the best interest of our residents in mind.

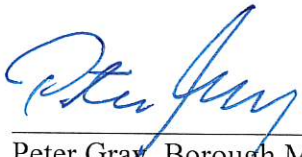
Enclosed with this letter is correspondence written by representatives of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association ("PMAA") (all signatories are local Authority Managers) that addresses the pros and cons of public ownership vs. privatization of water and sewer utilities. BCWSA management has attended conferences and seminars held by PMAA for many years.

In fact, BCWSA representatives have historically been most vocal in opposition to the privatization of water and sewer utilities. We understand BCWSA has been working hard to ensure public ownership and management of water and sewer utilities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and believe that a sale to Aqua would be inconsistent with and contrary to the opposition BCWSA has asserted over prior years.

A number of local municipalities served by BCWSA support this letter's clear message to the BCWSA Board Members and the Bucks County Commissioners, that we respectfully yet earnestly oppose any sale of BCWSA's water or sewer utilities to any private entity, such as Aqua.

Accordingly, New Hope Borough Council requests that BCWSA and the Bucks County Board of Commissioners reject any purchase proposal from Aqua or any private entities seeking to purchase BCWSA's water and/or sewer utilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Gray", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Gray, Borough Manager