



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

August 22, 2022

Chairman Robert J. Harvie, Jr.
Vice Chair Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW
Commissioner Gene DiGirolamo
Bucks County Board of Commissioners
55 East Court Street
Doylestown, PA 18901

Dear Bucks County Commissioners,

I am writing today regarding the potential sale of the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority's sewer system to Aqua Pennsylvania. As you are aware, there is a growing list of municipalities, in addition to a neighboring Water Authority, which have either objected to the sale, passed a resolution objecting the sale, or are actively considering retaining counsel to oppose the sale. I have heard from countless residents who voiced concerns spanning from the threat of rate increases to water safety.

While I understand that the Water Authority has primary jurisdiction over this matter, I respectfully ask that the Board do everything it can to halt this action and allow more time for a full and comprehensive impact assessment to be completed, in order to protect all of our residents and provide them with full and complete information regarding the impacts this potential sale would have on them.

It is widely reported that Aqua has raised the user rates on their costumers on numerous localities where Aqua purchased existing sewer systems or water systems. While it is hard to predict whether or not Aqua would immediately increase rates, it is concerning that North Penn Water Authority recently announced their intention to terminate their agreement to provide water to the BCWSA. As an entity that sells millions of gallons of treated drinking water to the BCWSA each year, this alone has the potential of increasing operational and procurement costs for Aqua which has the strong likelihood of leading to increased rates.

I understand the potential sale would lead to the county government receiving most of the proceeds of the sale, but I am concerned and hope that this move towards privatization will not lead to higher costs for ratepayers. As we wait for the written response from the BCWSA to your August 15th, 2022 letter, I respectfully request your full and fair consideration to these concerns.

If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress