

CONSERVATION VOTERS OF



Chester Water Authority
Attn: Board of Directors
P.O. Box 467
Chester, PA 19016

Dear Directors,

Conservation Voters of PA opposes the sale of the Chester Water Authority. We believe that it is critical to protect and maintain our public water resources and the land that surrounds them. Chester Water Authority must remain a municipal authority and not be sold to a for-profit water company. No well-run municipal authority should be sold, especially without the approval of the people who pay for and rely upon it.

Chester Water Authority is a fiscally responsible, impeccably maintained, award-winning water authority that:

- Maintains and protects 2,000 acres of crucial open space surrounding the two-billion-gallon Octoraro Reservoir.
- Provides free public access to the Octoraro Reservoir. From fishing to hiking, the lands are open to the public for enjoyment and recreation and are immensely important for public and mental health.
- Preserves the natural habitat of wildlife, including bald eagles, wild turkeys, and heron.
- Safeguards one of Pennsylvanians' constitutionally guaranteed public natural resources.

The Pennsylvania Constitution, Article I, Section 27, maintains the natural resource rights of Pennsylvania's residents, noting that the Commonwealth is a trustee of the resources and not the owner of these resources: "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

Protecting our natural resources is not something that should be up for debate. We support the Chester Water Authority's recommendation that the Chester Water Authority and its holdings should be placed in a trust to ensure its protection for the citizens of the Commonwealth now and in the future. Please reach out to us if there are additional ways that we can support the Chester Water Authority moving forward.

In solidarity,

Josh McNeil
Executive Director
Conservation Voters of PA

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