S.A.V.E.

SAFETY, AGRICULTURE, VILLAGES and ENVIRONMENT, INC.

October 8, 2019

Governor Tom Wolf
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

We respectfully ask you to intervene and stop the efforts by your Department of Community and Economic Development's Act 47 consultants to support a sale of the assets of the Chester Water Authority (CWA). The current legal actions, supported by your consultants, are more aligned with the shareholders of an Investor Owned Utility than with the customers of the CWA.

Forcing a sale of the CWA assets is an unfair way of addressing the financial issues of the City of Chester (the City). The City has never financially invested in the assets of the CWA. Therefore, the current and future customers of the CWA, currently close to 80% from outside of the City, should not be used in this unprecedented effort to force the privatization of a fiscally responsible municipal authority. Your support of this highly inequitable scheme to turn over the customer base of the CWA to an Investor Owned Utility will not adequately address the financial obligations of the City and will only lead toward the monopolization of these services.

We wrote to you in response to a Public Notice that was published on August 18, 2018. The notice stated that Econsult Solutions, Inc., the recovery coordinator appointed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, had prepared an Act 47 Exit Plan for the City based on the financial condition of the City and the plan contained certain findings, which included the monetization of the assets of the CWA. Your response letter of September 13, 2018 from Secretary Dennis Davin stated that you are committed to helping foster strong fiscal integrity for the City so that it can provide services for its citizens. The timing of your communications with the Mayor of Chester began coincidentally two months after Aqua's unsolicited attempt to purchase the CWA in May of 2017, but yet the City has been in fiscal distress for several years. We would like to know why you would take such extreme measures to benefit an Investor Owned Utility at the expense of ratepayers from outside of the City. That is essentially what you are doing in your role as Governor, as we watch the CWA attempt to defend itself from the consolidated and ongoing efforts by the City and Aqua in our court system.

S.A.V.E.'s mission is to promote the quality of life and community character of southern Chester County through Smart Growth principles that support safe transportation, agriculture, villages and the environment. Many S.A.V.E. supporters live in the service area and benefit from the natural resources of the CWA. We strongly object to the monetization of the assets of the CWA.

Sincerely,

Blair Fleischmann
Executive Director

cc: Chester Water Authority

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