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April 29, 2020

Secretary Dennis Davin
Department of Community and Economic Development
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Davin,

For decades, the Chester Water Authority has serviced many constituents throughout my district and provided quality service. Therefore, I write in strong support of the Authority and encourage you not to sell the authority or its assets.

As you know, the Authority has implemented strong fiscal management strategies, which will keep rates down for customers, while continuing to provide great service. Documents related to Governor Wolf's recent Declaration of Fiscal Emergency for the City of Chester stated that the City had two business-like assets, including the Water Authority. Unfortunately, this is a total mischaracterization of the situation. The Authority is its own independent governing body and its assets do not belong to the City of Chester.

The sale of the Authority may have short-term financial benefits, but it would have serious long-term negative effects on both the City of Chester and many other communities. The Authority services 200,000 customers across both Delaware and Chester counties. Sacrificing the service to these residents for momentary, financial benefits for the City of Chester appears short-sighted, and again I encourage you to not consider the sale of the Authority.

The sale of the Authority to a private entity would have the potential to result in rate increases across the board. During the current pandemic, any further financial burden to families struggling in a depleted economy should be avoided at all costs. The Authority has shown a propensity to operate with sound financial management and quality service. This should not change.

Once again, I strongly encourage you to not consider the sale of the Chester Water Authority. If you have any questions or I can be of any further assistance, please contact me.

Regards,

Christopher B. Quinn
Pennsylvania State Representative
168th Legislative District