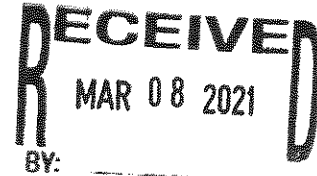


February 27, 2021

To:  
Governor Tom Wolf  
Secretary Dennis Davin, DCED  
Senator Carolyn Comitta  
Hon. Christina D. Sappey  
Hon. John A. Lawrence  
Hon. Jim Marshall  
Hon. Robert F. Matzie  
Hon. Bryan Cutler

cc.: Cynthia F. Leitzell ✓  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Chester Water Authority



**Re Chester Water Authority – attempted hostile acquisition by Aqua (Essential Utilities, Inc.)**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are concerned citizens and voters of Chester County, Pennsylvania and ratepayers of Chester Water Authority. **We strongly object to the proposed acquisition of CWA by Aqua.**

Aqua is attempting to acquire CWA from the City of Chester after the CWA Board *unanimously* rejected the offer made by Aqua to CWA. The right of the City to sell the Authority is legally dubious at best and is currently subject to litigation. CWA is not and never has been an asset of the City of Chester. **If such attempted acquisition would be permitted, the financial benefits to the City would unjustly become the financial burden of the Chester Water Authority ratepayers in Southern Chester County, Delaware County and the City of Chester, without any say by the ratepayers who would bear such cost!**

There are two Pennsylvania House Bills currently in the House Consumer Affairs Committee, **HB 97** (sponsored by Rep. Lawrence (R)) and **HB 144** (sponsored by Rep. Sappey (D)). **We strongly urge that these bills be passed into law as soon as possible.** These bills (i) give water and wastewater utility customers transparency into water utilities' finances and costs behind their rates, and (ii) require ratepayer approval of any proposed sale of public water and wastewater utilities to private utility companies.

Such laws are needed in light of the fact that several years ago, unfortunately, PA law was changed to remove the condition of financial distress of a public utility authority for acquisition thereof by a private for-profit utility company. In the case of CWA, PA residents in Southern Chester County, Delaware County and the City of Chester are the beneficiaries of a well-managed, **financially sound** public water

utility authority whose mission is to provide quality drinking water to its ratepayers. CWA has a long track record of fulfilling this mission at reasonable costs to its ratepayers.

Private for-profit utility companies serve a purpose when such public utilities are dysfunctional or in financial distress. However, by their nature as for-profit companies, their constituencies include, first and foremost, shareholders whose interest is profit, not high quality utility at lowest reasonable costs to the ratepayers. Public utilities are monopolies. Ratepayers do not have a free market to turn to if they do not like the quality or costs of the water supplied. The Public Utility Commission regulates the rates charged, but the financial structure of a private for-profit company like Aqua is different than that of an authority like CWA, and therefore the PUC has and will approve higher rates and rate increases for a company like Aqua than a public utility authority like CWA.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" CWA is not broke! To the contrary, it is a great example of a governmental public utility authority that delivers well on its obligations to its constituents, the ratepayers.

Aqua will be just fine without acquiring Chester Water Authority's assets. However, CWA's rate payers will definitely suffer unnecessarily with much higher than necessary rate increases if Aqua is permitted to acquire CWA. For many, such rate increases will be extremely burdensome. **This has been borne out by Aqua's track record, with a history of increasing rates as much as 36% every two years and as much as 452% over 10 years. For a commodity such as drinking water, one can argue that this is unconscionable.**

**Enclosed is a petition signed by residents in our area urging the passage of HB 97 and HB 144 to protect the interests of your citizens and voters in their capacity as public utility ratepayers, not only in Chester County, but across the Commonwealth.**

**Please give this the serious attention it deserves and act in the interests of the people and not the big moneyed interests of private for-profit utility companies such as Aqua (Essential Utilities), in spite of any political contributions they provide.**

Respectfully,



Geoffrey E. Meyer

265 Hyde Park Road, Landenberg, PA 19350



Margo E. Woodacre

120 Hyde Park Road, Landenberg, PA 19350

## SAVE CWA - TEN POINTS

February 2021

1. Chester Water Authority (CWA) is an independent public utility which supplies water to Southern Chester County, Delaware County and the City of Chester from CWA's Octoraro Reservoir in Chester County.
2. CWA is **NOT** an asset or entity of the City of Chester. It is a regional entity with a nine person Board comprised of 3 members from Chester County, 3 members from Delaware County, and 3 members from the City of Chester. CWA is **NOT** and has **NEVER** been financially supported by the City of Chester and has never been carried on the City's books as an asset of the City. **CWA is fully funded by its ratepayers.**
3. CWA is in sound financial condition and supplies high quality water to its ratepayers. It also allows the public access to the natural open space surrounding the Octoraro Reservoir.
4. Aqua, an Essential Utilities Company, is a for profit private utilities company seeking to acquire CWA's assets and water supply service. Aqua offered to purchase the CWA water service from the CWA. **The CWA board unanimously rejected Aqua's offer.** Aqua has since sought to acquire CWA from the City of Chester, aware of the City's financial difficulties.
5. **Aqua's track record in acquiring water and wastewater utilities reflects substantial increases in rates charged to its ratepayers—as much as 36% every two years, and as much as 452% in 10 years. Aqua's track record also includes the closing to the public of open space associated with water resources.**
6. By rejecting Aqua's offer, **CWA has saved its ratepayers an estimated nearly \$200 million to date**, as well as having continued to provide access to the open space around the Octoraro Reservoir.
7. CWA is a public utility. If Aqua acquires CWA it has a monopoly with no competitive alternatives for the CWA ratepayers. Remember CWA is financially sound, is not in financial distress nor in need of help from private industry.
8. Pennsylvania House Bills 97 (proposed by Rep. Lawrence (R)) and HB 144 (sponsored by Rep. Sappey (D)), which are in the House Consumer Affairs Committee, provide for a requirement of ratepayer approval by referendum of any proposed sale of water and/or wastewater utilities to private industry, and the publishing of annual reports by the utilities to provide more transparency to such utilities' ratepayers.
9. The attempted forced sale of CWA to Aqua is extremely **UNFAIR** to CWA ratepayers, members of the public who benefit from the use of the open space at the Octoraro Reservoir, and the voters in these jurisdictions.
10. The Pennsylvania legislature and the Governor should pass these bills into law as soon as possible for the benefit of all water and wastewater utilities in Pennsylvania. **RATEPAYERS MUST HAVE A VOICE IN THESE MATTERS!**

# PETITION TO SAVE THE CHESTER WATER AUTHORITY

**TO: Representatives Hon. Christina D. Sappey (D), Hon. John A. Lawrence (R), Hon. Jim Marshall (R), Consumer Affairs Chair, Hon. Robert F. Matzie (D), Consumer Affairs Democratic Chair, Hon. Bryan Cutler (R), Speaker**

**Senator Carolyn Comitta**

**Governor Tom Wolf**

We, the undersigned, are residents and citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and are customers and ratepayers of the **Chester Water Authority** which supplies potable water to southern Chester County, Delaware County and the City of Chester.

**We strongly support** Pennsylvania **House Bills 97 and 144**, currently in the House Consumer Affairs Committee, which provide for ratepayer approval by referendum prior to the sale of water and/or wastewater public utilities, and require such utilities to publish an annual report with information regarding average residential billing amounts to provide more transparency to ratepayers regarding such utility costs.

**We urge you to promptly pass these bills into law** in order to protect our economic interests as customers and ratepayers of Chester Water Authority which is currently subject to a hostile takeover attempt by Aqua, an Essential Utilities Company. Such a takeover will result in excessive and unnecessary cost increases to all Chester Water Authority ratepayers, as well as the loss of public access to the natural resources of the Octoraro Reservoir and related open space.  
**RATEPAYERS MUST HAVE A VOICE IN THESE MATTERS!**

**SIGNATURES**

**ADDRESSES**

*Stephan Meyer*  
*Camila Meyer*  
*Jane M. Conroy*  
*David J. Conroy III*  
*Margaret Chaves*  
*John D. E. Crowl*  
*Dora Staus*

265 Hyde Park Rd, Landenberg 19350  
265 Hyde Park Rd Landenberg PA 19350  
257 Hyde Park Rd. Landenberg, PA 19350  
251 HYDE PARK RD, LANDEMBERG PA  
130. " " " " "  
" " " " "  
129 Hyde Park Rd Landenberg PA

**PETITION TO  
SAVE CHESTER WATER AUTHORITY (cont.)**

**SIGNATURES**

**ADDRESSES**

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
 Melvyn Traverser  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
 Robert Skarcel  
 Emily E. O'Connell  
 Stanley Sullivan  
 Melvyn  
 Mrs. Brennan  
 Joan Mannion  
 Paul Mannion  
 Harold Forman  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
 Diana Almon  
 Joan Boyle  
 Stephen Boyle  
 Brian Donohue  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
 Mick Davis  
 Allen J. Boyer  
 Joseph L. Leo  
 Susan Taylor  
 \_\_\_\_\_ E.P. Robertson  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deane E. Wallace  
 Ronald Walker

304 Hyde Park Rd  
 204 Hyde Park Rd  
 205 Hyde Park Rd  
 216 Hyde Park Rd  
 220 Hyde Park Rd  
 224 Hyde Park Rd  
 227 Hyde Park Rd  
 229 Hyde Park Rd  
 229 Hyde Park Rd  
 232 Hyde Park Rd  
 232 " " "  
 272 Hyde Park Rd  
 301 Hyde Park  
 411 Hallins Rd.  
 411 Hallins Rd.  
 313 Hollins Rd.  
 309 Hollins Rd  
 217 " "  
 205 Hollins Road  
 105 Hallins Road  
 531 Egypt Run Rd  
 104 Hollins Rd  
 107 Tower St.  
 109 Tower St.  
 109 Tower

**PETITION TO  
SAVE CHESTER WATER AUTHORITY (cont.)**

**SIGNATURES**

Leslie J. Clarke  
Paullette Torres Clarke  
John C. Lion (JOHN C. LION)  
Virginia Lion (VIRGINIA LION)  
Norm Feldman  
Carol J. Miller  
Linda Barber  
John M. ...  
John M. ...  
Joseph ...  
Mouss ...  
Velma Travers  
Kerry Mays  
M. Barber  
Linda Barber

**ADDRESSES**

120 CRESCENT RD LANDENBERG  
120 CRESCENT RD LANDENBERG  
129 CRESCENT RD LANDENBERG  
129 Crescent Rd Landenberg  
113 Crescent Rd Landenberg  
113 Crescent Rd Landenberg  
214 Crescent Rd.  
Landenberg, Pa  
210 Crescent Rd  
202 CRESCENT RD  
202 CRESCENT  
134 Crescent Rd,  
134 Crescent Rd  
138 Crescent Rd  
225 Crescent Rd  
225 Crescent Rd.  
142 CRESCENT RD.  
142 CRESCENT RD.

**PETITION TO  
SAVE CHESTER WATER AUTHORITY (cont.)**

**SIGNATURES**

*Gene Trust*  
*Nancy Riley*  
*Wesley Robinson*  
*Deak Meyer*

**ADDRESSES**

113 Tower St.  
117 Tower St.  
116 Throes St.  
265 Hyde Park Rd. LANDENBERG, PA

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**SIGNATURES**

Ann Kneavel  
Margo Eury Woodace  
Mary O. Langley  
Kloewer  
Loiselle Fright  
Phil Woodell  
Growth

**ADDRESSES**

304 Hyde Park Rd Landenberg  
120 Hyde Park Rd Landenberg 19350  
105 Crescent Rd, Landenberg, PA 19350  
104 Crescent  
213 Hyde Park Road, 19350  
281 Hyde Park Rd 19350  
217 Crescent Rd 610-268-8760



**PETITION TO  
SAVE CHESTER WATER AUTHORITY (cont.)**

**SIGNATURES**

**ADDRESSES**

Cheryl G. East

201 Hyde Park Rd, Landenberg, PA

Bill + Irene Cunningham

268 Hyde Park Rd, Landenberg, PA

Robert M. Moore

309 Hyde Park Rd Landenberg PA

John Gillis

222 Crescent Rd Landenberg PA

Carl Anderson

233 Hyde Park Rd Landenberg

Joe Muscare

318 Hyde Park Rd Landenberg

Elizabeth Cooke

100 Cornwall Rd, Landenberg PA 19350

Mary Anne Allen

305 Hollins Rd

Ed + Linda Turner

241 Hyde Park

Allen

305 Hyde Park Rd

Daisy D. Hise

"

James M. Neal

236 Hyde Park Rd, Landenberg PA

Diane Webster

137 Hyde Park Rd, Landenberg PA

Jerry Webster

137 " "

Carol Hahn

214 Swann Rd Landenberg PA

John Hahn

" " " "

Betty Jane Mitchell

201 Hollins Rd Landenberg PA 19357

Ray S. DeLeon

113 CORNWALL RD, LANDEBERG PA 19350

Pauline Anna Lewis

107 Crescent Rd, Landenberg, PA 19350

James Foster

269 Hyde Park Rd, Landenberg PA

Jill Koons

248 Hyde Park Rd Landenberg PA 19350

GERRY NEESON

240 HYDE PARK RD LANDEBERG, PA 19350

Mary Van Dusen

213 Hyde Park Rd.

Lois Healy

105 Cornwall Rd, Landenberg

Kathleen Burnett

101 Laurel St, Landenberg PA 19350

PETITION TO

SAVE CHESTER WATER AUTHORITY (cont.)

SIGNATURES

ADDRESSES

<i>Jerry Comarata</i>	116 Crescent Rd. Landenberg, PA 19350
Janis C Stephens	245 Hyde Park Rd
Joel Stephens	245 Hyde Park Rd
Robert L. New	121 HYDE PARK RD LANDENBERG, PA, 19350
<i>Joe E J M</i>	230 CRESCENT RD.
Charles Robert Spent	261 HYDE PARK RD. Landenberg PA 19350
David W Zuffe	217 Hyde Park Rd
Jinda Keel	236 Hyde Park Rd
Jandra J. J. J.	261 Hyde Park Road 19350
Samuel J. J.	237 Crescent Rd
Dorbra Kurber	101 Cornwall Road, Landenberg, PA 19350
David Runkle	101 CORNWALL RD LANDENBERG 19350
David G. Doyen	234 Crescent Landenberg
Judy R Doyen	" "
Eileen Weyer	113 Cornwall 19350
Allie Hammond	276 Hyde Park 19350
Mary Ann Deussen	273 Hyde Park 19350
Allen H. King	226 Crescent Rd. 19350
Stanley S. King	" "
Attena Smith	249 Hyde Park Rd 19350
Frank J. Borzant	212 Hyde Park Rd 19350
LARRY + Frank Hess	321 Hyde Park Rd 19350
Linda M. Mancini	130 Crescent Rd., Landenberg, PA 19350
Bird Evans	277 Hyde Park Rd, Landenberg, PA 19350
Dave & Jan Allen	121 TOWER ST, 19350



Harlow Pointe, Landenberg, PA 19350

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**Name**

**Address**

<u>Cynthia McDermott - Cynthia McDermott</u>	<u>105 Harlow Pointe Ct. Landenberg, PA 19350</u>
<u>Curtis B Conn</u>	<u>107 Harlow Pointe Ct Landenberg, PA</u>
<u>Margery P. Conn</u>	<u>107 Harlow Pointe Ct Landenberg PA</u>
<u>Deborah Tennant</u>	<u>138 Harlow Pointe Ct</u>
<u>Howard C Smith</u>	<u>116 Harlow Pointe Ct</u>
<u>Trish Logan</u>	<u>116 Harlow Pointe Ct. Landenberg PA 19350</u>
<u>Richard W. Kitter</u>	<u>109 Harlow Pointe Ct., Landenberg, PA 19350</u>
<u>Sharon M Kozel</u>	<u>109 Harlow Pointe Ct., Landenberg, PA 19350</u>

(over)

Harlow Pointe, Landenberg, 19350

PETITION TO

SAVE CHESTER WATER AUTHORITY (cont.)

Elizabeth Johnson

Jocelyn A. Pagan

Cynthia L. Lavin

Carl G. Gills

Stephanie

F. Nazari

Jane Nazari

of Sharkey

Jean Sharkey

Karen Nacker

Christina

Christina M. Carls

Melanie L. Carls

Angela Havel

Paula

John Baldino

Kate Baldino

120 Harlow Pointe Ct.

124 Harlow Pt. Ct. Landenberg, PA

124 Harlow Pt. Ct. Landenberg

122 Harlow Pt Ct Landenberg PA

129 Harlow Pt Ct, PA

133 Harlow Pt

133 Harlow Pt

104 HARLOW POINT CT PA

104 Harlow Pt. Ct. PA Landenberg PA

102 Harlow Pt Ct PA

126 Harlow Pt Ct PA

135 Harlow Point Ct. Landenberg, PA

139 Harlow Point Ct

144 Harlow Pointe Ct Landenberg PA

144 Harlow Pointe Ct, Landenberg PA

141 Harlow Pointe Ct Landenberg PA

141 HARLOW Pointe Ct Landenberg PA

The Estates of Harrogate  
Landenberg, 19350

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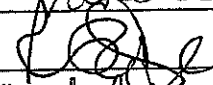
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Name	Address
SWAMY & LAKSHMI YELESWARAM	136 Harrogate Dr. Landenberg PA 19350
Paul Bearda Vanessa Bearda	132 Harrogate Dr. Landenberg, PA 19350
 Michael Bame	112 Harrogate Dr. Landenberg, PA " 19350
Nash Damm	112 Harrogate Dr. "

(over)

