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R-2020-3017970

**PITTSBURGH BLACK
ELECTED OFFICIALS COALITION**

July 2, 2020

Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chairwoman
PA Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
3rd Floor, Room N-304
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairwoman Dutrieuille,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the recent rate increase request filed by Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA).

In our capacity as State, County, and City legislators, we represent a far reaching constituency, including 95% of the traditionally African American communities in the Pittsburgh region. The combined proposals submitted by PWSA's would increase the typical residential water and wastewater bill (for a customer using 3,000 gallons per month) from \$72.49 to \$86.31 per month (19.1%) in 2021. As well as in 2022, the PWSA proposals would increase that same monthly residential water and wastewater bill from \$86.31 to \$91.71 (6.26%).

We believe that the combined increases would be particularly burdensome for our residents. We understand the need for continued infrastructure updates to ensure the safety of the provided services, but we cannot allow them to place a financial burden on constituents throughout our collective districts.

Additionally, we are requesting reporting on PWSA's diversity and inclusion records, specifically hiring and contracting. The agency has requested a rate increase that will deeply impact residents of color, we would like to quantify their equity measures.

PBEOC Members: PA State Representatives. Jake Wheatley, Ed Gainey and Summer Lee; Pittsburgh Councilmen Rev. Ricky Burgess and Daniel Lavelle; as well as County Councilpersons DeWitt Walton and Olivia Bennett

Thank you for noting this letter as part of the official record. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at (412) 204-7029.

Yours in Service the Below Signed Elected Officials,



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07/02/2020


PA State Rep. Jake Wheatley



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PA State Rep. Ed Gainey



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Councilman Rev. Ricky Burgess



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Councilman Daniel Lavelle



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County Councilman DeWitt Walton