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RANKING MEMBER VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEMBER APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

December 13th 2023

Public Utilities Regulatory Authority 10 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051

Via Electronic Delivery

Dear Chairwoman Gillett, Vice Chairman Betkoski, Commissioner Caron,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed CT Water rate increase, and the impacts for the 13 towns in my 35<sup>th</sup> Senate district. Having reviewed the details of this proposal, I am particularly concerned about the potential impact on the residents and businesses within these affected communities.

In the context of Connecticut being a high-cost-of-living state, where utilities expenses already pose a significant financial strain, the proposed rate increase raises considerable apprehension. With the prevailing high inflation and economic challenges, imposing a substantial hike in water rates will undoubtedly burden hardworking individuals, families, retirees, and the job-creating businesses, especially in our smaller towns.

Please keep these impacts in mind and how they will affect the people of our state, understanding the ripple effect it can have on the already financially strained residents and the local economies. Small towns, in particular, stand to bear a disproportionate burden. In light of these concerns, I implore you to carefully consider the potential hardships that this proposed rate increase may inflict on the people of our state. I am eager to collaborate with you in finding alternative solutions that ensure the well-being of our communities while preserving the essential public services that our citizens rely on.

I look forward to working together to navigate these challenges and contribute to the betterment of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Senator Jeff Gordon 35th District