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March 11, 2016

Water Rate Board
1101 Market Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Re: Proposed rate increase

My personal experience brings me continuously in contact with senior citizens: I have a part-time eldercare law practice, am a Certified Senior Advisor, a certified Medicare counselor, and APPRISE volunteer.

I oppose the rate increase that is proposed largely because it will be unaffordable for the vast majority of Philadelphia's elders. I rarely counsel a senior who has a monthly income in excess of \$2,000, which is just above 200% FPG. Have you tried to live on that amount recently? Sadly, that person is considered to have TOO MUCH income for the current programs that assist low-income individuals.

More to the point, SSA did not increase benefits even 1.7% for year 2016, advising beneficiaries that there is no need for a cost of living adjustment.

How can you possibly portray a 12% water rate increase as a reasonable or affordable amount? I ask for your consideration on behalf of those already finding that the barest necessities are consuming their entire income each month.

Very truly,

Katherine G. Weiss, Esquire