

**\*FW: Water Rate Hike Increase**

Paul Fugazzotto

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016 3:12 PM

**To:** WATERINFO

**From:** Jake Washburn

**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 2:38 PM

**To:** WaterRateBoard

**Subject:** Water Rate Hike Increase

Hello,

My name is Jake Washburn and I am a home owner in the 19121 zip code. I read the article on Philly.com which details some of the reasons for raising our water bills. However, I believe this is a short-sighted measure. I believe the city can do more to reduce the amount of stormwater going into the system which would ease the infrastructure. Simultaneously, the city needs to do something about the elephant in the room - real estate taxes. The city's inability to collect back-due real estate taxes is not the problem of the tax-paying citizen. There is a way to do it if government officials genuinely wanted to take on the issue. It just doesn't make sense to raise water bills every year for people who pay their taxes and bills to make up for those who don't want to pay their taxes and who also know that the city won't do anything about it. That is simply not fair and equitable.

I understand the need the water infrastructure but increasing water bills is not the only thing that the city should do. There needs to be a long term strategy of making infrastructure more efficient. I like the water barrel program and I know that if every homeowner had it, the stormwater intake would be reduced significantly. Also considering a staggered system where stormwater can be stored in city-owned containers and released days after a storm could make it less overwhelming.

I hope we can all work together to improve our water collection, distribution, and treatment as a city.

Best regards,

Jake Washburn