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From: Lisa
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To: WaterRateBoard
Subject: Public Comment on Philadelphia's 2021 Water Rates

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PWD 2022-2023 proposed budget increase is extreme putting the burden seemingly solely on Philadelphians no matter their circumstance.

PWD needs to source alternate funding for projects they believe critical. PWD must consider which projects are actually critical.

Recent early 2021 new meter installations do not seem necessary & seem to have a large cost considering the actual new meter & contractor efforts to install. Letters or customer outreach may be low cost, however multiple attempts by contractors to drop in & install are irresponsible use of PWD funds, not to mention the actual meter cost & waste of good equipment already installed. My meter was replaced, however nothing was wrong with the old one. There was a discrepancy in the mailed notice of what would be done & what was actually done. I see this as an excessive unnecessary use of PWD funds with no customer benefit.

For this reason I am suspect of the critical funds necessary to run PWD. I believe the proposed increases are extreme even after negotiation. The request was decreased by 60% indicating the extremely excessive original request, & it is still extreme.

PWD needs to rethink funding options other than increasing customer bills & fees. They need to reevaluate their priorities & not pass extreme increases to customers. They need to consider other options for projects that may not provide valuable benefit to customers, such as the recent meter upgrade installations. A reasonable increase would be no more than 2% a year.

The reasons for additional revenue PWD is requesting do not entirely make sense - changes in consumption pattern - why are additional funds necessary? Replenish depleted financial reserves - why now, why so expensive, this perhaps should have been addressed earlier or without the need for customer rate increases now. Why do current customers need to pay for financial reserves that provide no immediate value or benefit to customers? Capital improvements are the best use I can understand. Old distribution needs improvement, but fiscally responsibly please.

PWD proposed increases are extremely bad timing for customers impacted by the pandemic with their own financial challenges. PWD charges are already high. Increasing them to this extreme level is not fair or tenable.