

KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
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Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Sonny Popowsky, Chair
Water, Sewer & Storm Water Rate Board
1515 Arch Street, 17th Fl.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Chairman Popowsky,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to follow up regarding the Water, Sewer, & Storm Water Rate increase proposed by the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD).

As you know, PWD is requesting a rate increase of 11.7% for residential customers in 2025 and an additional 5.9% in 2026. These are significant increases for Philadelphia residents who are already struggling to make ends meet. With tariffs raising prices on everyday goods and services and potential threats to federal funding that could impact our largest employers, Philadelphians are facing real economic uncertainty. A rate increase at this level at this time is potentially unmanageable for too many of our families.

While I know the Water Department is also facing economic uncertainty when it comes to federal funds and increases in operational costs, especially as it relates to federal rule compliance and the cost of chemicals, we must balance the ability to operate city services effectively with the affordability challenges facing our residents. Therefore, I respectfully request that the Rate Board reject the proposed increases and work through the process to find a more sustainable rate for the coming period.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Katherine Gilmore Richardson'.

Katherine Gilmore Richardson
Councilmember, at-Large
Majority Leader

cc: Michael Carroll, Deputy Managing Director, Office of Transportation and Infrastructure
Randy Hayman, Commissioner, Philadelphia Water Department