

# Warrington Township

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Bucks County Board of Commissioners  
Bucks County Administration Building  
55 E. Court Street  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Commissioners' Meeting Room  
Doylestown, PA 18901

Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority Board Members  
1275 Almshouse Road  
Warrington, PA 18976

July 26, 2022

## **Re: Opposition to Potential Sale of BCWSA Water and/or Sewer Utilities**

Honorable Commissioners and Board Members,

We are issuing this letter to express our opposition to any potential sale of BCWSA water and/or sewer utilities to Aqua. We understand that as of July 13, 2022, BCWSA has entered into an Exclusivity Agreement with Aqua to negotiate a sale of their sewer utilities within the next 12 months. We believe that such a transaction would not be in the best interest of our residents.

The sale of water and/or sewer utilities to a private entity like Aqua has been proven to lead to skyrocketing rates and fees. Local Municipalities (let alone average citizens) have limited to no influence or recourse in preventing these rates and fees from drastically increasing. Rather than simply being held accountable to the public for the provision of safe drinking water and for safe sanitary sewer waste collection and treatment, Aqua is also driven by making a profit. Private companies like Aqua do not always have the best interest of our residents in mind.

Enclosed within this letter is correspondence written by representatives of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (all signatories are local Authority Managers) that discusses the pros and cons of public ownership and privatization of water and sewer utilities. BCWSA management has attended conferences and seminars held by this very same professional organization for many years.

In fact, BCWSA representatives have historically been some of the most vocal in opposition to the privatization of water and sewer utilities. We understand BCWSA has been working hard to ensure public ownership and management of water and sewer utilities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and believe that a sale to Aqua would be contradictory to the strong position BCWSA has taken over the years.

Several municipalities served by BCWSA put this letter together to send a clear message to the BCWSA Board Members and the Bucks County Commissioners, that we respectfully yet strongly oppose any sale of BCWSA's water or sewer utilities to any ~~private~~ *public* entity including, but not limited to Aqua.

The members of the Warrington Township Board of Supervisors respectfully yet strongly request that BCWSA and the Bucks County Board of Commissioners reject any purchase proposal from Aqua or any private entities seeking to purchase BCWSA's water and/or sewer utilities.

Sincerely,

  
Fred R. Gaines, Chair

  
Eileen Albillar, Vice Chair

  
Ruth L. Schemm, Member

  
Michael J. Diorka, Member

  
Vanessa Maurer, Member