



June 15, 2022

Senator Jay Costa  
Democratic Leader  
Room: 535 Main Capitol  
Senate Box 203043  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3043

Senator Vincent Hughes  
Minority Chairman, Appropriations Committee  
Room: 545 Main Capitol  
Senate Box 203007  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3007

Re: Incorporating SB 916 (ARP Funds for Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Infrastructure) Into the Final Budget


Dear Leader Costa and Chairman Hughes,

We would like to see the Water, Sewer, and Stormwater components of the PA Senate Dems' New Deal for PA Plan included in the final 2022-23 budget in the coming weeks. The \$350 million outlined in the plan would come from American Rescue Plan funding and will be used to prevent and repair stormwater related issues, protect our drinking water, and invest in outdated sewer systems to improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians. Too many of our constituents have experienced the expensive and often tragic consequences of a lack of statewide investment in stormwater retention, clean drinking water, and our sewage systems. Water quality and water infrastructure are in sharp focus among the national discourse about aging infrastructure and that's a good thing. However, the need for repairs and upgrades are often greater than local communities can handle on their own and the General Assembly has a key role to play for ensuring federal relief reaches our communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted municipalities' and authorities' ability to pay for these upgrades and preventative measures in our communities and they often have no option for funding these necessary repairs other than increasing costs to ratepayers. The goal of this legislation is to increase funding to the H2O PA Program. This program allows municipalities and authorities to partner with the state to help pay for projects related to stormwater, water, and sewer related issues. Bolstering funds to this program by using ARP dollars will alleviate the burden on local taxpayers, particularly those who live on fixed incomes.

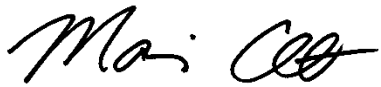
This need is particularly important in light of more severe storms that are linked to climate change. We're seeing heavier rains which stresses the capacity of systems across the state. This creates unprecedented wear and tear on water and sewer infrastructure. These funds will allow water and sewer systems to complete major overhauls ahead of schedule or allow leaders to focus on taking pre-emptive measures on worrisome lines before they break. Please make this funding request a priority and if you have any follow up questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



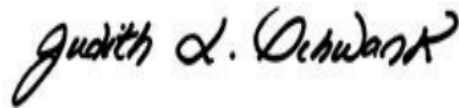
Senator Lindsey M. Williams

38<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



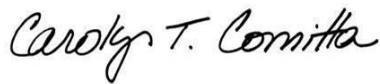
Senator Maria Collett

12<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Judith L. Schwank

11<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Carolyn Comitta

19<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Tina Tartaglione

2<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District



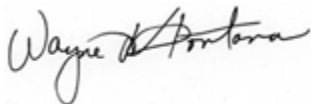
Senator Amanda Cappelletti

17<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator John Kane

9<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



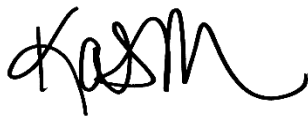
Senator Wayne D. Fontana

42<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Lisa Boscola

18<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



Senator Katie J. Muth

44<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District