



August 12, 2020

President Lynda DiMenna  
New York American Water  
60 Brooklyn Avenue  
Merrick, NY 11566

Dear President Dimenna,

I am writing in opposition to New York American Water's ("NYAW") implementation of its September 1st rate hike. With our state in the midst of a pandemic and economic turmoil, it would be inappropriate and insensitive to raise rates on struggling Long Islanders, especially when water rates are already sky-high.

The current proposed rate increase was originally scheduled to be implemented on April 1, 2020. At that time, the rate hike was delayed due to the unprecedented public health and economic crises with which our State was confronted. While New York has made strides in protecting public health in the months since, the fact remains that many Long Islanders have trouble making ends meet. According to the most recent available data, the State's unemployment rate is 15.7%. This represents a drastic increase from the unemployment rate of 3.7% that the State recorded in February 2020. Further, while many businesses reopened following quarantine measures, many remain unable to do so. These and other leading economic indicators all point to the same conclusion; this crisis is far from over, and people are struggling. This fact is unchanged from when NYAW agreed to delay its April 1 rate hike.

For these reasons, raising prices on an essential resource like water is unfathomable now. When Long Islanders are hurting it is our job to help them, not compound their problems. Ratepayers can barely afford the seasonal price of water as-is, and you should not place an additional

burden on them. Please take swift action to help customers by delaying your company's rate increase. I thank you for your consideration of this matter.

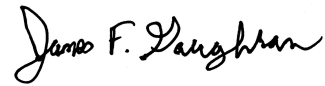
Sincerely,



Todd Kaminsky  
Senator, 9th District



John Brooks  
Senator, 8th District



James Gaughran  
Senator, 5th District

CC: John Rhodes, Chair Public Service Commission