

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**ELIJAH REICHLIN-MELNICK**  
SENATOR, 38TH DISTRICT

**Albany Office:**  
617 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-2991  
Fax (518) 426-6737

**Rockland Office:**  
20 South Main Street  
New City, NY 10956  
(845) 623-3627  
Fax (845) 708-7701

**Westchester Office:**  
2 Church Street, Ste. 210  
Ossining, NY 10562  
(914) 941-2041  
Fax (914) 941-2054

**E-Mail Address:**  
reichlin@nysenate.gov

**Chair**  
Procurement and Contracts

**Committees**  
Consumer Protection  
Education  
Investigations and Government Operations  
Local Government  
Transportation  
Veterans, Homeland Security  
and Military Affairs

October 29, 2021

The Honorable Michelle L. Phillips  
Secretary to the Commission  
New York State Public Service Commission  
Empire State Plaza  
Agency Building 3  
Albany, NY 12223-1350

**Re: Review of Suez Water NY Acquisition and Feasibility Study of Public Water Supply Ownership**

To Whom it May Concern:

I am aware that Veolia is attempting to acquire Suez Water NY, and I ask that the Public Service Commission fully reviews this proposed acquisition to determine if this acquisition is in the best interests of Rockland County's water ratepayers.

My constituents in Rockland County pay some of the highest costs in New York State for the most basic of services - clean water. On their behalf, I am respectfully requesting that the Public Service Commission study the feasibility of transitioning from a corporate model to a municipal water model where ratepayers will have more direct control over their water supply and infrastructure.

It would seem that the corporatization of water infrastructure has consistently led to the highest prices for water in New York State - evidenced by Suez Water in the Hudson Valley, New York American Water on Long Island, and other private, for-profit water companies throughout the state. Meanwhile, right here in Rockland, the villages of Nyack and Suffern, provide clean, low-cost municipal water services to thousands of my constituents.

Furthermore, existing state regulations allow for less transparency on corporate water providers than is required of publicly-owned water utilities. On the ballot in this year's election is a proposition to create a new right to clean air and clean water in the New York State Constitution's bill of rights. I would ask that you consider the need of my constituents to have clean, affordable, municipal water services where they can have more transparency in the ownership of their water infrastructure and ensure that costs are balanced with health in all future investments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elijah Reichlin-Melnick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "E".

Elijah Reichlin-Melnick  
New York State Senator, 38th District