



PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

June 30, 2020

RE: CARES Appropriation

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

On June 24, 2020, the Energy Association of Pennsylvania (EAP), through correspondence, sought your support for appropriating a portion of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) funds to help customers who are unable to pay their utility bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated business closures. We agree with the EAP that some customers, including commercial customers, are unable to pay their utility bills due to the economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe that similar challenges face the water and wastewater utilities. The PAPUC's jurisdiction only extends to investor-owned utilities, but we believe that the municipal and cooperative utilities face the same challenges.

As the EAP letter discussed, on March 13, 2020, the PAPUC implemented a moratorium on the termination of utility service for non-payment, so that jurisdictional customers affected by this crisis would not have to go without water, wastewater, electric, natural gas, telephone, or steam utility service in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Wolf's Emergency Proclamation, and the requirements of Section 1501 of our Code. While many utility customers have been able to keep up with their bills during the moratorium, many others have not, some for the first time. We understand that the crisis has affected not only low-income customers, but also customers with incomes higher than the federal poverty guidelines.

Utility service is important in the best of times; it is even more critical in these unprecedented times. The ability to run a refrigerator, cool a living space, and wash hands, may mean life or death during a global health pandemic. For these reasons, we ask that you support the appropriation of a portion of the CARES funding to help customers who are unable to pay their water, wastewater, electric, natural gas, telephone, or steam utility service bills due to the pandemic and its associated negative economic impacts.

The Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission write to express our support for the EAP's request. When utility customers pay their bills, the utilities are in turn, able to cover the cost of providing the service, including much needed maintenance and safety mandated infrastructure investment. Should you require any additional information regarding customer assistance programs or ways to reach customers not eligible for LIHEAP, please contact our Legislative Director, June Perry, at juperry@pa.gov, or 717-787-3256.

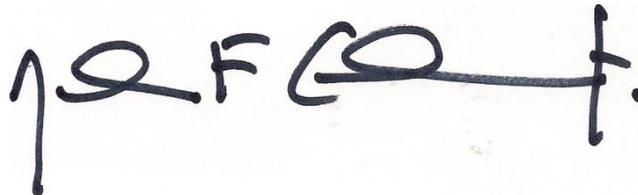
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gladys Brown Dutrieuille". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David W. Sweet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

David W. Sweet, Vice Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Coleman, Jr.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

John F. Coleman, Jr., Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph V. Yanora". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Ralph V. Yanora, Commissioner