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**April 22, 2025 Public Comment on Proposed PWD Rate Increase**

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From Jeremy Hancher

Date Tue 4/22/2025 9:57 AM

To WaterRateBoard <waterrateboard@Phila.gov>

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**Subject:** Public Comment on Proposed PWD Rate Increase

Dear Philadelphia Water, Sewer, and Storm Water Rate Board,

I am writing to express my concern about the Philadelphia Water Department's proposed rate increase, as outlined in recent public communications and covered in the media.

While I understand the financial challenges facing the Water Department, rate hikes have become a recurring issue for residents. These increases disproportionately impact households already struggling with the rising cost of living in Philadelphia. What's missing from this discussion is a meaningful focus on water efficiency at the household level.

Many homes in the city still rely on outdated plumbing fixtures that use far more water than necessary. Instead of continuing to raise rates year after year, the Philadelphia Water Department should consider implementing a program to help residents upgrade to water-efficient toilets, showerheads, and faucets. A city-sponsored fixture replacement or rebate program would reduce water usage, ease strain on the system, and lower bills for customers over time — all while supporting broader conservation and sustainability goals.

Such an initiative could help reduce the need for future rate hikes, especially for households that are already doing their best to conserve water but lack the resources to make major plumbing upgrades on their own.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public input. I urge the Board to consider long-term, equitable solutions to water system funding — and not just rate increases — as part of this and future rate proceedings.

Sincerely,

-Jeremy Hancher

Philadelphia resident and Homeowner