

My name is Nicole Whitaker and I live in Upper Chichester Township, Delaware County Pennsylvania. My neighborhood in the Township is called Twin Oaks and I am the fourth generation of my family to live there.

I am in my twelfth year of service as the elected Second Ward Township Commissioner. At the Primary Election on May 18th, I won re-election as the Republican nominated Commissioner candidate and I was written in by a majority of my Democrat constituents as their Commissioner candidate. I speak about this bi-partisan support from my constituents because I am so happy to be here at a bi-partisan Committee hearing. It does my heart good to see people in both parties working together for the common good. I think there was more bipartisanship in my first year in Township Government than now in my twelfth year. I do not think it is happening in the Congress in Washington at all. Both parties do not work together as often as they should, and I want to take a moment to recognize the courage of Representative Lawrence and Representative Kruger in joining forces to hold this hearing. Their joint effort is not a small thing--It is a big thing, and it is **real leadership and needs to be recognized.**

Thank you and the other members of your respective Committees for pursuing the issues before you on a bi-partisan basis. My Township constituents applaud your working together. The rest of the state is watching and will benefit from your example and your good work. Thank you for LISTENING to us.

My family in Twin Oaks has been drinking public water produced and delivered to our home by the Chester Water Authority since before the Second World War.

We love the consistent high quality of our water. We love our friends and neighbors who work for the Authority. We love the customer service that we get from the Authority. And we love the low rates for the Water. There is no life without water, and we do not take our water for granted. I value what the Pennsylvania Constitution says about every Pennsylvanian's rights to pure water, but the Chester Water Authority gives us **more** because it is responsive to us. The Authority Board is appointed by officials that we elect.

The Chester Water Authority does not have stockholders, so it does not answer to stockholders like a for profit company does--and that is important to us. The Chester Water Authority is responsive to us and we want to keep it that way.

Members of the Committee, the two proposed bills that are before you allow us -- your constituents-- to keep what we have -**control over our water**--we are not asking you to give us anything extra -**we just want to keep what we have**. It is so important to allow the customers of the Chester Water Authority to have a say in what happens to the Authority that I thought it worth taking time away from my job as the Township Manager in Darby Township, Delaware County to come here and

tell you that my constituents do not want the CHESTER WATER AUTHORITY to be taken over by a private for-profit company.

I am not an Economist but there is something about this whole privatization effort that I do not understand. The Authority was built by fees for water paid by the ratepayers not from contributions from any of the local governments that appoint the Authority Board members. If the ratepayer's money was used to build the Authority does not the Authority belong to the ratepayers? How can some people say that the Authority should be sold, and money given to a local government and the ratepayers get nothing? Well in that situation the ratepayers would get a lot more than nothing--- they would get hit with permanent higher water rates. Why would the ratepayers have to keep paying for something that they already built and paid for?

In summary my constituents and I support both Representative Lawrence and Representative Sappey's ratepayer protection bills. In addition to all the other good things I mentioned about the Authority, the Authority keeps its rates low and these low rates protect our poor and those on fixed incomes. Let the ratepayers decide the issue of the Authority's future. We are happy with what we have. We cherish it and we want to keep it. Please help us do that and pass both of these valuable bills.

Thank You.
Nicole S Whitaker