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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP



SENATOR
CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO, JR.
8TH SENATE DISTRICT

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JUDICIARY

October 11, 2011

Jaclyn A. Brillling, Secretary
New York State Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 3
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Dear Secretary Brillling:

I write to strongly urge the Commission to reject Long Island American Water's request for a nearly 20 percent rate increase.

Residents in the communities of Roosevelt and Baldwin, which lie within my Senate district and are served by Long Island American Water, are facing serious financial difficulties. They are paying high water bills, high property taxes, and dealing with some of the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression. Just like families all across Long Island, they have been forced to cut their expenses and do more with less. American Water should follow the example set by their ratepayers, rather than asking for an exorbitant rate increase and forcing them to pay even more yet again.

While Long Island American Water cites the need to recover monies for infrastructure upgrades as a major reason for this increase, its parent company, American Water, has seen its stock value increase by approximately 20% over the last year. American Water's profits come from ratepayers pockets, and ratepayers can't afford to pay more.

Asking residents to pay a nearly 20 percent rate increase in this economy is both unrealistic and unreasonable. Once again, I strongly urge the Commission to reject this rate increase proposal because of the harmful effect it will have on ratepayers.

Sincerely,

CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO, JR.
New York State Senator



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