THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

ELLEN C. JAFFEE
Assemblywoman 95TH District

COMMITTEES
Steering Committee
Environmental Conservation
Children and Families
Mental Health
Consumer Affairs and Protection
Local Government

May 20, 2010

Hon. Jaclyn A. Brilling
Secretary, Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting this statement in opposition to the Joint Proposal, filed April 22, 2010 by United Water New York and the New York State Department of Public Service Staff (Case 09-W-0731 United Water New York Rates).

In 2006, United Water agreed to address the long term water supply needs of Rockland County and respond to the underground infrastructure needs, fire hydrant pressure and water flow issues, which were long overdue and ignored by United Water. Rate increases were approved in 2006 responding to the above costs.

I adamantly oppose the proposed additional rate increases in the 2010 Joint Proposal as they place an extreme burden on consumers.

Of additional concern, the 2010 Joint Proposal eliminates the performance incentives to reach water supply volume commitments agreed upon in the 2006 joint proposal. This comes at a time when United Water of New York has failed to achieve the milestones required in the 2006 agreement.

Testimony of Rockland County Health Department officials indicates that there is increasing demand for water supply in Rockland County. However, to date United Water has not had an aggressive program promoting water conservation initiatives, nor have they sufficiently addressed the transfer of Rockland County water to New Jersey. This inevitably places a financial burden on residents and increases the demand for water supply.

In conclusion, the 2010 Joint Proposal should not be adopted by the Commission for the following reasons: The 2010 Joint Proposal does not respond to the Rockland County Health Department's suggested water supply needs, ignoring the need for an aggressive water conservation campaign; does not address the maintenance and operational costs of the Lake DeForest Reservoir upon Rockland County, or the transfer of water from Lake DeForest; eliminates performance incentives; and finally, suggests a rate increase, which is not in the

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public interest as it places an undo burden on consumers, especially given rate increase imposed in the previous joint agreement.

Sincerely,

Ellen C. Jaffee
Member of Assembly

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