



Governor Shapiro
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

January 25, 2023

Dear Governor Shapiro,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA), I write to share with you the *PMAA 2023 Adopted Resolutions* (enclosed). These resolutions highlight our members' key policy issues and serve as the association's legislative and regulatory agenda for the year. They are proposed and adopted annually to stay current with today's issues facing municipal authorities and their ability to provide services such as drinking water, solid waste disposal, stormwater management, wastewater treatment, and other essential services to more than six million citizens across the Commonwealth. We call on you as public officials to provide positive leadership in support of these priorities. A few are highlighted below.

The complexities to providing safe drinking water continue. Safeguarding the state's public drinking water supplies and its citizens from lead contamination, PFAS, and other emerging contaminants is our top priority and PMAA supports state funding to assist with these growing challenges.

Another priority is preservation of public ownership of infrastructure. Municipal authorities deliver affordable, safe, and quality services that protect public health and the environment. In recent years, public ownership has been threatened increasingly as ongoing privatization efforts target well-managed and viable municipal authority systems. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that a community be given the right to decide whether its infrastructure is sold to a for-profit private investor-owned utility. A main priority of PMAA is upholding this right by supporting legislation that requires a ratepayer referendum prior to the sale of a municipal authority to a for-profit, investor-owned utility.

Similarly, our members believe placing unwarranted financial burdens onto ratepayers is contrary to the best interest of the public, your constituents, the citizens of our communities. Therefore, PMAA opposes legislation or regulations considered to be unreasonable, burdensome, and unprotective of municipal authorities' customers' health and security. Unfunded mandates result in additional costs for all ratepayers. Bear in mind that municipal authorities are required to charge reasonable and uniform rates while meeting strict environmental and public health standards set by both federal and state regulators.

One final priority is providing more opportunities and options for municipal authorities to streamline efficiencies. Allowing municipal authorities to use modern, more efficient project and financial management practices provides significant cost savings to their customers without the investment of state funding. To accomplish this, our efforts focus on legislative initiatives in key areas such as procurement, prevailing wage, and Separations Act reform.

We appreciate your consideration of the *PMAA 2023 Adopted Resolutions* as we work together to ensure municipal authorities have the necessary tools and resources to continue their vital roles in local communities. Should you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact us. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennie Shade". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and "S".

Jennie Shade
Senior Director of Government Relations

CC: Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chairman, PA Public Utility Commission
Akbar Hossain, Acting Secretary of Policy and Planning
Brion Johnson, Executive Director, PENNVEST
Lindsey Mauldin, Deputy Chief of Staff for Health and Human Services
Rich Negrin, Acting Secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection
Danielle Okai, Deputy Chief of Staff for Economic Development
Michael Pipe, Deputy Chief of Staff for Public Safety
Sam Robinson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Consumers and the Environment
Tori Shiver, Deputy Chief of Staff for Education and Workforce Development
Rick Siger, Acting Secretary, PA Department of Community and Economic Development
Mike Vereb, Acting Secretary of Legislative Affairs
Nancy Walker, Acting Secretary, PA Department of Labor and Industry