



## ACTIVISTS' PANTS ARE ON FIRE ABOUT PENNSYLVANIA'S WATER COMPANIES

A vocal minority in Pennsylvania remains dead set on spreading misinformation about the Commonwealth's regulated, private water companies. From faulty rate comparisons to scare tactics about control and regulation – and everything in between – they seem to be throwing accusations into the water like pebbles to see which one causes the biggest ripple. The activists aren't simply stretching the truth – their pants are on fire!

### GET THE TRUTH



**Activists'  
Pants are on  
Fire About...**

**Working  
with a  
Pennsylvania  
regulated,  
private water  
company**

- Data clearly shows that Pennsylvania's regulated, private water companies deliver safer water than municipal systems in the Commonwealth. Systems owned and operated by Pennsylvania's water companies – which serve 4.4 million customers – are **37.4 percent less likely to have a health-based Safe Drinking Water Act violation than government-run systems in the Commonwealth.**
- A 2023 study found that Pennsylvania water companies are **10 to 100 times less likely** to have a water quality violation than other system owners like local governments.
- The strategic infrastructure investment made by water companies – **more than \$800 million annually** – keeps infrastructure strong and service reliable for Pennsylvania residents and employers and protects our environment from losing this precious resource to leaky pipes.



**Activists'  
Pants are on  
Fire About...**

**Company  
Operations**

- Pennsylvania's regulated, private water companies have an over \$1 billion economic impact on the Commonwealth and collectively invest more than \$800 million annually to help update their critical water infrastructure and to keep water safe and service reliable.
- Pennsylvania's water companies are woven into the fabric of the communities they serve. More than 2,000 Pennsylvanians work for a water company, and water companies support an additional 11,300 jobs.



**Activists'  
Pants are on  
Fire About...  
  
Water Rates**

- Experts condemn rate comparisons because they disregard extremely important factors like investment, reliability, safety and quality. When water providers – both private and government-run – are doing their job and properly investing in their systems, rates sometimes are higher.
- Water that is unsafe to drink is unjust at any price. And when water is unsafe to drink and customers must turn to bottled water – you can be sure they are paying more in the end.
- Pennsylvania's water companies are rate regulated by the independent Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), which means that these companies must go through a rigorous approval process to justify the rates being charged to customers, something government-run systems do not have to do.



**Activists'  
Pants are on  
Fire About...  
  
Pennsylvania's  
Act 12, Utility  
Valuation  
Reform**

- Communities with distressed water systems can greatly benefit from selling to a regulated, private water company. They get investment, operational expertise, and funds that can be used to help with other local priorities. A municipality may want to get out of the business of operating a complex water system even if the system is not considered distressed. Both types of communities in Pennsylvania have benefited from Act 12.
- Voluntarily selling water and wastewater systems is an effective way to offload utility risk, monetize assets and focus resources on other local needs. This may include paying down debt, funding pension obligations, making other infrastructure improvements, investing in economic development initiatives or expanding local government services.



**Activists'  
Pants are on  
Fire About...  
  
The  
Pennsylvania  
Public Utility  
Commission**

- The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has been effectively overseeing the Commonwealth's regulated utilities since 1937. On the water side, the PA PUC sets water rates, audits expenditures and approves investment plans. The result is the delivery of the safest water at the lowest possible cost. Similar independent oversight does not occur for government-run systems.