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Bucks County Association of Township Officials passes a resolution opposing the sale of Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority's sewer system to Aqua Pennsylvania.

Bucks County, PA: At their July 28, 2022, Executive Board meeting, the Bucks County Association of Township Officials (BCATO), the Board unanimously passed a resolution opposing the sale of Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority's (BCWSA) sanitary assets to privately held, investorowned, Aqua Pennsylvania.

Executive Board member Barbara Lyons, Chairman of the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors, asked her colleagues, "After attending the recent BCWSA municipal meetings and open houses held jointly with Aqua Pennsylvania, does anyone support the sale?" While board members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to gather additional information, the BCATO Executive Board Members remain unified in their opposition to the sale.

The Resolution reflected many concerns chief being Aqua Pennsylvania's history of dramatic rate increases such as Limerick Township whose rates increased 82%, East Bradford Township whose rates increased 64%, and Cheltenham Township whose rates increased 65%.

Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township Supervisor and BCATO President expressed grave concern for the financial impacts that such major increases in sewer rates will have on the residents and businesses being served across Bucks County. "Unlike Aqua Pennsylvania, BCWSA does not have shareholders and does not pay dividends. Operating as a nonprofit, BCWSA has returned funds to the customers through reinvestment and stable rates ensuring the best services at the lowest possible cost." President Rash added, "We are very disappointed in this abrupt change of course being considered."

A copy of the resolution can be found <u>here.</u>

The Bucks County Association of Township Officials (BCATO) is a 501 (c) (4) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, created in 1907 in accordance with Section 1401 of the Second-Class Township Code and is comprised of 30 second-class townships and its supervisors, managers, tax collectors, and auditors