



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
CONNECTICUT

WILLIAM TONG
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 16, 2020

Via Email

Larry Bingaman
President and CEP
Regional Water Authority
90 Sargent Drive
New Haven, CT 06511

Re: *State of Emergency Utility Shut-off Moratorium*

Dear Mr. Bingaman:

I write to request that Regional Water Authority (“RWA”) implement an immediate utility shut-off moratorium for nonpayment for residential water customers. On March 10, 2020, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont issued a Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergencies (“Declaration”) in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with the novel coronavirus currently affecting multiple countries and states, including Connecticut and surrounding states. The Declaration provides that the public health and civil preparedness emergencies shall remain in effect until September 9, 2020, unless terminated earlier by the Governor.

Running water is essential for COVID-19 prevention sanitization. There are many Connecticut families heeding public health and safety warnings by staying at home in quarantine due to COVID-19 infection, potential exposure to COVID-19, or flu-like symptoms. In order to maintain Connecticut’s public health and safety, such families must be able to comfortably stay at home under safe conditions which include running water that is essential for hygiene, cleaning, and cooking.

On March 12, 2020, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (“PURA”) granted my petition for a State of Emergency Utility Shut-off Moratorium for water, electric, and natural gas customers. PURA issued a preliminary order to water, electric, and natural gas public service companies to cease water, electric, and natural gas shut-offs, except for reasons of public safety, for the duration of the Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergencies declared by Governor Lamont, or until such other time determined by PURA.

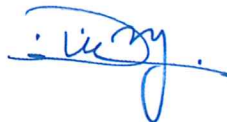
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

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In order to preserve the public health and safety of Connecticut residents during this pandemic, I respectfully request that the RWA follow the same path as the regulated utilities by immediately implementing a water utility shut-off moratorium for the duration of Governor Lamont's state of emergency or until there is good cause to lift the moratorium. I further request you reinstate service for any customer within your service territory that has been recently terminated for nonpayment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (860) 808-5272 to further discuss this request. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter of public health and safety.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Tong", with a stylized flourish at the end.

WILLIAM TONG

Cc: Marissa Gillett, Chairman, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, Marissa.Gillett@ct.gov
David Silverstone, MDC Independent Consumer Advocate, icamdc17@gmail.com