

**EXETER TOWNSHIP  
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-32**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF EXETER TOWNSHIP,  
BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 866  
SEEKING THE REPEAL OF ACT 12 IN ORDER TO COMBAT PREDATORY  
PRICING IN PUBLIC WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania State Senators John I. Kane, Wayne D. Fontana, Jimmy Dillon, Judith L. Schwank, Katie J. Muth, Carolyn T. Comitta and Nikil Saval have introduced Senate Bill 866; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kane's Co-Sponsorship Memorandum provides as follows:

On the surface, Act 12 of 2016 establishes a process that seems fair and reasonable to facilitate the acquisition of financially distressed public water and sewage systems for fair market value. In reality, Act 12 created a predatory pricing scheme that has allowed for-profit utilities to aggressively bid and acquire well-run and financially healthy public water and wastewater systems. Was this the legislature's intended goal?

Act 12 has been a disaster for ratepayers from the very beginning. The process removes the most basic protection we have in a democracy: the chance to have a voice in the process. The sales process lacks any citizen and ratepayer input, a needs assessment, and proper public oversight. Even worse, some private utilities are using Non-Disclosure Agreements to keep all information about a potential sale completely hidden. Rumors of a "rate freeze" are quickly replaced with utility bill rate increases of 30%, 40%, sometimes 75%. Regular Pennsylvanians are left holding the bag.

....

I'm proud to step up to introduce this legislation on behalf of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association which wholeheartedly supports this legislation, the Pennsylvania Constitution which guarantees access to pure water, and the ratepayers which deserve a break, not higher water bills....; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Exeter Township ("Township") have seen extraordinary and skyrocketing water and sewer rates since the sale of its wastewater plant; and

WHEREAS, the Exeter Township Board of Supervisors ("Board") hereby wholeheartedly supports Senate Bill 866 in order to reduce the financial burden of increasing water and sewer rates on its residents.

BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Exeter, Berks County, Pennsylvania as follows:


THAT the Board wholeheartedly supports Senate Bill 866 in order to help alleviate the cost of rising water and sewer costs on Township residents.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board hereby directs the Township Manager to send a copy of this resolution to Senators John I. Kane, Wayne D. Fontana, Jimmy Dillon, Judith L. Schwank, Katie J. Muth, Carolyn T. Comitta and Nikil Saval.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Supervisors of Exeter Township has adopted this Resolution in lawful session this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF EXETER  
TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA

By:   
George Bell, Chair

Attest:   
Larry Piersol, Interim Township Manager

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, which was fully adopted at a public meeting held pursuant to notice as required by law on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

  
Secretary of Exeter Township

Dated: 8/14/23