
Press Release

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thursday, January 12, 2012

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**GARGANIO ANNOUNCES ONLINE PETITION
TO FIGHT WATER RATE INCREASE**

Residents Can Access Petition At www.co.burlington.nj.us/waterpetition

Freeholder Director Bruce Garganio today announced that residents who wish to actively join him in the fight against the 20 percent rate increase sought by New Jersey American Water Company can now do so through the County government website.

Garganio said that the County has created an online petition for residents to formally register their opposition.

The direct link to the petition is: www.co.burlington.nj.us/waterpetition

The petition not only expresses opposition to the rate increase, but also calls for another round of public hearings, with all ratepayers to be notified by mail of the dates, times and places of the hearings.

Garganio said the law permits the company to provide such notices – but that it declined to do so.

The petition reads:

We, the undersigned, call on New Jersey American Water to hold another round of public hearings in Burlington County on its proposed 20% rate increase and to provide proper and complete notice of the hearings through the mail, directed to ratepayers, as provided by law. We urge the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, the New Jersey Rate Counsel, and the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law to reject the rate petition and to compel the company to provide hearings and hearing notices as indicated.

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The freeholder director addressed the rate increase and pledged to create a petition during his “State of the County Address” on January 2, 2012. He noted that the County had cut taxes \$8.6 million over four years – and said that New Jersey American Water “should also be part of the solution” for residents struggling to get by in the down economy.

“I have to ask myself,” said Garganio, “why am I struggling through these County budgets, why am I cutting taxes, when a monopoly like New Jersey American Water can come along and set its sights on a 20 percent rate increase – having already accumulated 51 percent worth of increases since 2004. . .

“More than half our towns are affected by this greedy grab. And yes, I’m speaking up. And I’m not letting go. And neither should any of you.”

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