

Attention New York American Water Customers!

ED RA
ASSEMBLYMAN

New York State Assembly
Albany, NY 12248

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A special message from Assemblyman Ed Ra

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



Dear Neighbor:

I would like to take the time to update you on the situation with New York American Water (NYAW). Speaking with community residents and my colleagues in government, several suggestions have been made. As we all know, the rates being charged are exorbitant compared to surrounding areas serviced by public water departments.

Working with my colleagues Senator Carl Marcellino and Assemblyman Mike Montesano, we have introduced several bills designed to help provide relief and accountability to the customers of NYAW. One would allow those serviced by a private water operator a state tax credit against the taxes being passed on to the consumer through the surcharges imposed by NYAW. Another would require the State Comptroller's Office to conduct an audit both prior to and after rate changes are requested and granted to a private water company by the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC). We are also looking at legislation that would remove some of the property tax burden NYAW and its customers are currently subject to. When the Legislature reconvenes in January it will be a priority to provide relief to the ratepayers who are being subjected to these outrageous rate hikes approved by the PSC.

In the longer term a public takeover would similarly require state legislation as well as cooperation with local governments, which have indicated they are undertaking a legal review of these options. I will gladly work with my colleagues at all levels of government toward short-term relief and a long-term solution for the customers of NYAW.

Again, I share your frustration with this situation. As far as NYAW is concerned, it is operating under a legally-approved rate order. The PSC, not surprisingly, is not willing to discuss the matter as it is a subject of litigation. I believe the comptroller's audit that would be permitted by the proposed legislation would be the first opportunity to have a truly independent review of the information this entity has filed with the PSC. The ratepayers deserve to know why their rates are so high and just what the PSC is doing. I will continue to fight for transparency on this matter as we work toward a permanent solution.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Ra".



ED RA
ASSEMBLYMAN

For information on this or any other legislative matter, please contact Assemblyman Ra's district office at 516-535-4095, 825 East Gate Boulevard, Suite 207, Garden City, NY 11530.