



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

KENYAN R. McDUFFIE
Councilmember, Ward 5
Chair Pro Tempore
Chair, Committee on Business and
Economic Development

Committee Member
Finance and Revenue
Labor and Workforce Development
Transportation and the Environment

December 20, 2017

George Hawkins, CEO and General Manager
5000 Overlook Avenue, S.W.,
Washington, DC 20032

Re: Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge

Dear General Manager Hawkins:

Several Ward 5 residents and businesses have contacted me shocked and distressed because of the Clean Rivers Impervious Area charge on their DC Water bill. I am extremely concerned about the damaging impact this charge is having on household and business budgets alike. I am aware that this charge is being evaluated by the Committee on Transportation and the Environment (the Committee), of which I am a member, but DC Water bills have become unreasonably high for many of my Ward 5 constituents. Specifically, one townhome association with private sidewalks and streets incurred a bill upwards of \$40,000. Furthermore, places of worship and cemeteries have also received considerable bills irrespective of their efforts to mitigate the charges. I request that you provide a list of short-term and long-term recommendations to address this seemingly imbalanced rate structure.

I understand that this rate structure is complex and you testified to it on November 17, 2017 before the Committee. My office was represented at the hearing where you noted that the Clean Rivers Impervious Area charge funds a "\$2.6 billion investment in water quality that will take more than 25 years to build and result in 18 miles worth of underground tunnels..."¹ You explained to the Committee that DC Water is required by a Federal Consent Decree to resolve water pollution challenges and, in order to do that, DC Water assesses a Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge to its customers.² During the hearing you committed to explore alternative ways to raise the same amount of revenue without shifting unfair costs to District customers.³

¹ DC Water: Public Hearing on Water Rate Increases in the District and 822-507, the "Lead Pipe Replacement and Disclosure Amendment Act of 2017" (Nov 17, 2017) (written testimony of General Manager George Hawkins, DC Water).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

As the Committee prepares to address this issue by considering legislation and the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget, I cannot underscore enough the importance of short-term recommendations in the interim. I appreciate your commitment to work collaboratively with the community to identify short-term equitable solutions to this issue while more permanent ones are being considered and adopted. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my Legislative Director Barbara Mitchell at 202-724-8028 or bmitchell@dccouncil.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K.R. McDuffie". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "K" and a distinct "M" at the end.

Kenyan R. McDuffie

cc: Councilmember Mary M. Cheh, Ward 3
Rashad M. Young, City Administrator
Henderson J. Brown, IV, DC Water, General Counsel