



1152 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW • Suite 900 • Washington, DC 20005-1723  
Tel: 202/682-1581 • Fax: 202/371-8151 • Web: [www.dcha.org](http://www.dcha.org)

March 26, 2018

Linda R. Manley  
Secretary to the Board  
District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority  
5000 Overlook Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20032

Dear Ms. Manley,

This letter is in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published by the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority in the *D.C. Register* on March 16th, 2018 pertaining to Amending Water and Sewer Rates, Fees and Charges for Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020.

The District of Columbia Hospital Association understands the importance of maintaining a functional and safe water and sewer system. Further, we support protecting our environment and water ways by ensuring that there is no overflow into the Anacostia River when the combined sewer systems are overwhelmed.

The Association and its member do have concerns about the rate in which our water bills are rising and the percentage of government & DC Water Fees that comprise the bills. We are currently trying to collect three years' worth of DC Water bills from our members to accurately measure the impact of the fee and rate increases. Currently, we have data from one facility that shows the fees, including Clean Rivers, charged by DC Water and the District Government, on average, compose 23% of their bills each month. Further, their average bill increased by 10% from 2015 to 2017.

We encourage the Authority to continue reviewing this matter and examine ways to minimize the need for increased government fees and ensure that they do not overwhelm rate payers.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me at (202) 289-6212 or [jpalmer@dcha.org](mailto:jpalmer@dcha.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Justin J. Palmer'.

Justin Palmer  
Vice President, Government Relations