

TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House Consumer Protection, Technology,
and Utilities Committee

FROM: Amy Brinton, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: March 20, 2026

RE: **PA Chamber memo: Oppose House Bill 1964**

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry (PA Chamber), representing nearly 12,000 member companies of all sizes from across all commercial and industrial sectors, I am writing to respectfully express our opposition to House Bill 1964.

House Bill 1964 repeals Act 12 of 2016 and imposes a one-year moratorium on the voluntary sale of public water and wastewater systems, unnecessarily limiting local decision making and discouraging private investment in critical infrastructure.

First and foremost, it is important to note that Act 12 of 2016 was enacted with bipartisan support to provide municipalities with a transparent, Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regulated option to address aging systems, regulatory compliance challenges, and long term infrastructure needs when a sale or partnership is determined to be in the best interest of the community. Repealing Act 12 eliminates an important, well-established regulatory framework that enables municipalities to work with private utilities under continued PUC oversight.

Pennsylvania communities are facing increasing costs driven by federal mandates, such as PFAS and lead and copper requirements, as well as decades of deferred maintenance. For many municipalities, access to private capital and professional utility management is one of the few viable tools available to ensure safe, reliable, and compliant service for residents and businesses, while also stabilizing municipal finances. A blanket moratorium removes local flexibility, creates regulatory uncertainty, and sends a negative signal to investors and employers that rely on predictable, well maintained water and wastewater systems. It also slows infrastructure upgrades that support economic development and family sustaining jobs across the Commonwealth.

Lastly, concerns related to transparency and valuation under Act 12 are already being addressed through enhanced PUC oversight and recently adopted guardrails. Repealing the law entirely is also an unnecessary step backward that undermines confidence in Pennsylvania's infrastructure and regulatory framework.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully urge the Committee to **oppose H.B. 1964**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please contact Amy Brinton via email at abrinton@pachamber.org or at 717-720-5565 should you have any questions or concerns.

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