

AARP Real Possibilities in

Maryland

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October 24th, 2016

Baltimore City Council
100 Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
Council President
Bernard C. "Jack" Young

Dear President Jack C. Young and Members of the Baltimore City Council,

My name is Connie Moore. I am a resident of the City of Baltimore and are here today as a resident of the City and am also representing AARP Maryland. As your constituent, I ask you to support income – based water affordability program to ensure that water services is affordable and available to everyone in Baltimore City especially older city residents living on a fixed income. As you may know water rates have more than tripled over the last 15 years and continue to increase to pay for necessary improvements. However, we believe the burden to pay for these improvements are falling on the least who can afford these cost increases.

Access to water and reasonable water rates are essential to healthy and safe life. Almost every community in the US has seen water and sewer rates rise dramatically during the same time frame. Indeed, water rates are rising much more quickly than incomes especially fixed incomes. Rising rates pose a particular hardship for many older people and for households with fixed or limited incomes. As you know several factors are responsible for the increase in rates.

Utilities—such as telecommunications, electricity, natural gas, water, and sewer services—are crucial to health and well-being. Older City residents particularly need these services, and many find these services eat up a sizable share of their household budget.

For these reasons, we believe that the Baltimore City Council should protect the Citizens of Baltimore and vote to make sure these citizens have safe, affordable water service.

Thank You,

Connie Moore

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