STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PETITION OF THE AQUARION WATER AUTHORITY IN OBJECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S PROPOSED ASSESSMENT AGAINST AQUARION WATER COMPANY OF CONNECTICUT, INC. AND THE TORRINGTON WATER COMPANY PURSUANT TO SECTION 16-49 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES	:	DOCKET NO. 26-09-XX
	:	SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

AFFIDAVIT OF DEBRA SZABO

I, Debra Szabo, Vice President, Finance of Aquarion Water Authority ("AWA"), being duly sworn, hereby depose and say as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen and understand the obligations of making statements under oath. My business address is 600 Lindley Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

2. I submit this affidavit in support of the Petition of the AWA filed contemporaneously herewith, which objects to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's ("DEEP") annual assessment to the AWA's subsidiaries, Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut, Inc. ("AWC-CT") and Torrington Water Company ("TWC") for fiscal year 2027, which runs from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027 (collectively, the "2027 Assessments").

3. The AWA is a Connecticut public corporation, created by the Connecticut General Assembly during its June 2024 Special Session in Public Act No. 24-1. The AWA is not a "public service company," as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-1, and it is not subject to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority's ("PURA") jurisdiction. Through Public

Act No. 24-1, the General Assembly granted the AWA the rights and powers necessary to acquire Aquarion Company—including its indirect subsidiaries, AWC-CT and TWC—and to collectively operate those entities as a separate water authority.

4. On April 4, 2025, the AWA, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority ("RWA"), and Eversource Energy filed a joint application under Public Act No. 24-1, Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-47 and Sections 16-47-1 et seq. of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies seeking PURA's approval for a change of control of Aquarion Company. On March 25, 2026, PURA issued a final decision approving the change of control.

5. On June 30, 2026, the transaction closed, and ownership and control of AWC-CT and TWC were transferred to AWA. Consequently, effective June 30, 2026, AWC-CT and TWC ceased to be "public service companies" as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-1 and are no longer subject to PURA's jurisdiction.

6. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, DEEP has calculated the 2027 Assessments for AWC-CT and TWC as $873,616.84 and $34,161.78, respectively. These amounts are each to be paid in four installments, due by June 30, 2026, September 30, 2026, December 31, 2026, and March 31, 2027. *See* Attachment 1.

7. In May 2026, AWC-CT and TWC made the first installment payment for fiscal year 2027 to DEEP of $198,213.63 and $8,312.87, respectively. *See* Attachment 2. The payments were cleared in June 2026. In August 2026, DEEP issued and sent invoices to AWC-CT and TWC for the second set of assessment payments. *See* Attachment 1.

8. In August 2026, AWA sent two emails to DEEP disputing the assessments, including the August 2026 invoice and the two remaining unbilled invoices, and requesting a refund of the first installment payments remitted in May 2026. AWA's dispute and refund request were based on the grounds that AWC-CT and TWC are no longer "public service companies," as that term is defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-1, and therefore no longer constitute "companies" subject to the regulatory assessment requirements set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-49. AWC-CT and TWC are no longer among the entities whose regulation the assessments are intended to fund. *See* Attachment 3.

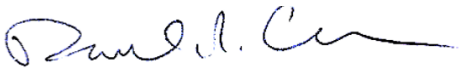
9. On September 9, 2026, DEEP responded to AWA's request stating that AWC-CT and TWC are responsible for the payments despite no longer being regulated by PURA. *See* Attachment 3. DEEP further noted that the assessment fees for a given fiscal year are based on gross revenues reported for the prior calendar year and that the assessment is not an advance charge for the upcoming year but "a statutory fee based on revenue collected during the reporting year." *see id*. As such, DEEP stated that all invoices through March 31, 2027, remain due and payable.

10. Imposition of the 2027 Assessments on the AWC-CT and TWC will produce an inequitable result by requiring AWA's ratepayers to fund regulatory functions from which they will receive little or no benefit after June 30, 2026, while also bearing the costs associated with the AWA's separate governance framework.

/s/ Debra Szabo

Debra Szabo

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 15th day of September 2026



Daniel R. Canavan
Commissioner of the Superior Court.