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statement by Attorney General William Tong.

Tong, who represented PURA in Eversource's successful appeal of the original decision, called the reversal "an economic disaster for Connecticut families and municipalities and is not in the public interest... Your bills are going to go up to pay for this boondoggle. Not just a little bit. A lot."

Stephen Harding, the state senate minority leader and a Republican representing Brookfield, also shared Tong's sentiments on the deal.

"It's the product of an atrocious legislative backroom deal that silenced the voices of the public," Harding said in an interview with CT Insider. "This sale would bring about a tsunami of annual water rate hikes for ratepayers across Connecticut. Our focus must be on protecting water customers in this already unaffordable state while protecting the environment."

The legislation's sponsor, State Rep. Joe Gresko, praised Aquarion's service during a press conference at the state Capitol last week.

"They have been responsible, they have been a good corporate citizen," Gresko said. "I would prefer it if we didn't monkey around with that, if we can avoid it."

In a joint statement Friday, Aquarion President Lucy Teixeira and RWA Vice President Rochelle Kowalski praised PURA's decision on the proposed sale.

"We appreciate the commission's work to reach this point," the statement said. "The decision recognizes the Aquarion Water Authority's ability to access lower-cost capital as a public authority and reflects commitments we have made including full [payment in lieu of taxes] payments to support municipalities and the stabilization fund we proposed to help mitigate future rate impacts."

A final decision on the matter will be made when the State General Assembly returns to session on March 25.



Eversource Logo. PHOTO BY EVERSOURCE ON FACEBOOK

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