A.949 (Zebrowski)/S.3789 (Comrie)

Title: An act to amend the public service law, in relation to authorizing the public service commission to require water-works corporations to provide certain residents with non-billing related information.

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to enable residents of condominiums, cooperatives and multi-family residences with five or more units to have direct access to non-billing notifications, including water quality alerts and water service disruptions, from their water company.

Statement of Support: At the present time, residents of certain condominiums, cooperatives and multi-family residences who receive their water through a common meter are not considered customers by water-works corporations, since the landlord, condominium association or building site manager pays the water bill. These residents often do not have direct access to critical information such as water quality alerts or notices of service disruptions, which may be sent to the landlord or condo association by the water company but which may not be communicated to the residents in a timely way.

In addition, residents should be able to receive information from the water company about rebates for purchasing water-saving fixtures such as low-flow toilets and faucets. At the present time, multi-family building residents may not be aware of such incentives to conserve water, if the notifications about rebates are sent to the landlord or condo association but never shared with tenants.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter supports this legislation to authorize the Public Service Commission to require water companies to directly communicate non-billing information to these residents of multi-family complexes under a master meter, in the interest of public health and safety. It will also promote conservation of our precious water resources.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Urges Your Support of A.949/S.3789