



# CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

## Fighting for Illinois Consumers

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
June 22, 2018

**CONTACT:** Mike Truppa  
(312) 286-5077

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

Illinois' top utility watchdog will join with suburban Chicago leaders to urge Gov. Bruce Rauner to stand up for consumers and veto House Bill 4508, legislation that favors two powerful private water companies and opens the door for higher water bills across the state.

The news conference is:

**10:00 a.m., Monday, June 25**  
Homer Glen Village Hall Board Room  
14240 W 151<sup>st</sup> Street  
Homer Glen, IL 60491

HB 4508, which passed the General Assembly this spring, renews earlier legislation that allows Aqua Illinois and Illinois American Water to automatically raise their existing customers' rates to fund municipal acquisitions. This bill also repeals a 7,500-connection limit on the size of systems that the water companies can buy.

Consumer advocates fear the legislation will allow Illinois' two biggest private water companies to march across the state buying up municipal water systems and raising customer rates. The parent companies of Aqua and Illinois American made a combined profit of \$150 million in the first quarter alone, and past reviews have shown that the two companies charge up to 70 percent more than public systems in the region.

State Sen. Sue Rezin and Bryan McDaniel, director of governmental affairs for the Citizens Utility Board (CUB), will lead the news conference. The event will also feature Homer Glen Mayor George Yukich, who can speak about his constituents' history of skyrocketing bills under Illinois American Water.

CUB is Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog organization. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, CUB has saved consumers more than \$20 billion by helping to block rate hikes and secure refunds. For more information, call CUB's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-669-5556 or visit [www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org](http://www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org).

###