



**Communities United For Action**  
1814 Dreman Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45223  
(513) 853-3947 www.cufacincy.org

September 16, 2019

Mayor John Cranley  
Cincinnati City Council  
801 Plum St.  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Hamilton County Commissioners  
138 E. Court St. #603  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

**RE: MSD rate structure for funding EPA consent decree infrastructure**

Dear Mayor Cranley, Cincinnati City Council Members, and Board of Hamilton County Commissioners:

We are writing to address our concerns about fixing our sewers and keeping them affordable. We know we can fix our sewers in a way that everyone can afford; it isn't one or the other. We cannot, however, do both with an outdated rate structure that places most of the cost burden on residential ratepayers who use less water. We are asking that the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County immediately work together to restructure MSD's rates, so that they are fair and affordable for everyone without further delaying compliance with our consent decree.

The current MSD rate structure is not affordable for many Hamilton County residents, contributing to thousands of water shutoffs each year. Further, it may not provide the funding needed to accomplish the necessary upgrades to reduce sewer backups and overflows in a timely manner. Currently, residents who use less water are subsidizing MSD accounts that have high water usage. To make matters worse, large impermeable surface owners, for example, parking lots, do not pay MSD for the infrastructure they use to handle their runoff. Residents are subsidizing corporate welfare.

Communities United For Action supports the Sierra Club's rate restructuring demand (see attached) that:

- 1) Puts the rate structure on a fair and just footing; and
- 2) Decouples most infrastructure charges from drinking water usage, which has nothing to do with storm water demand capacity.

We look forward to working with each of you to make sure our sewers get fixed in a way everyone can afford.

Sincerely,

*Mark E. Brown*  
*Vickie Jackson*  
*John Harrison*  
*Ann Kissel*  
*Wendy Ball*  
*Robert C. Zorn*  
*ASD John E. Egan*  
*Sharon Miller*  
*Jackie Gray*  
*Chuck E. Bell*  
*Deborah M. Smith*  
*Roger Klavis*  
*John Hill*