

**ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**BETTY JEAN GRANT**

*Chair of the Legislature  
2nd District Legislator*



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March 12, 2012

Hon. Terrence D. McCracken  
Erie County Legislature, 8th District  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, NY 14202

RE. Appointment of Commissioner to the  
Erie County Water Authority

Dear Legislator McCracken:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter of interest from Francis G. Warthling seeking reappointment as a Commissioner of the Erie County Water Authority, as his term will expire on April 27, 2012.

As you know, all candidates for Commissioner of the Water Authority, including incumbents seeking reappointment, must be interviewed by the Energy and Environment Committee, pursuant to the Legislature's Rules of Order. I anticipate that the Legislature will vote on the Water Authority appointment at the March 29, 2012 session and would appreciate it if you were able to conduct interviews of all prospective candidates on Thursday, March 22, 2012.

I have instructed the Clerk of the Legislature to forward any additional letters of interest to your office.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Betty Jean Grant in cursive.  
Betty Jean Grant, Chair  
Erie County Legislature

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## Erie County Water Authority

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March 12, 2012

Hon. Betty Jean Grant  
Chairwoman  
Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Chairwoman Grant:

I am writing to request your consideration of my reappointment to the Board of Commissioners of the Erie County Water Authority (ECWA).

In looking back on my two terms as a Commissioner, I'm very proud of the accomplishments our organization has achieved and the position we have established for future successes on behalf of our ratepayers and the 38 communities we serve throughout Erie County and Western New York.

Some of ECWA's accomplishments during my brief tenure include but are not limited to:

- Two bond rating increases from Wall Street - currently "AA+", among the highest of any public agency in New York State;
- Completed \$115 million, five-year infrastructure investment program of which two-thirds was paid from existing revenues not borrowed funds, saving ratepayers \$63 million in interest expenses;
- Recently approved an \$87 million five-year infrastructure investment program - \$18.7 million in upgrades will be completed throughout ECWA's service district in 2012;
- Installed stand-by power generators at all major facilities;
- Continued to increase customer base and expand service district with additional consolidations with the Town of Hamburg and Village of Blasdell;
- Average rate increase of 1 percent over past five years, no increase for 2012;
- 6 consecutive GFOA awards for "Excellence in Financial Reporting";
- Customer satisfaction rating of 92 percent;
- Maintained 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest water rate in Erie County;



- Relinquished health insurance benefit for members of the board of commissioners saving ratepayers \$42,000 annually;
- Improved and streamlined customer service operations with enhanced billing and payment options and outsourced bill printing, saving more than \$100,000 annually and \$250,000 in capital expenditures.

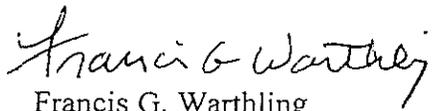
I say with confidence that the current board of commissioners and leadership of ECWA are more than ever committed to improving on these accomplishments and remaining one of the best-managed public water utilities in New York State. As a successful private business owner and an individual active in our community, I'm very aware of the challenges facing Western New York. That is why I will continue to work closely with my fellow commissioners and management team to identify how we can further improve our operations and service delivery.

During the past several years, ECWA has worked hard to keep the members of your honorable body informed of our operations and our plans moving forward. As ECWA's Chairman, I remain committed to doing so and welcome any further suggestions you or any member of your honorable body may have to achieve this objective.

I am honored to serve the more than 550,000 Western New Yorkers that rely on ECWA's dependable, high-quality service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and take my position as ECWA Commissioner very seriously. After reviewing the ECWA's record of accomplishments, I'm confident the members of the Erie County Legislature will conclude that I deserve the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board of Commissioners.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues and I am available to meet at your convenience should you wish to do so. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at 510.2108. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Francis G. Warthling  
Chairman  
Erie County Water Authority

cc. Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
Robert M. Graber, Clerk of Legislature