

# KANAWHA COUNTY COMMISSION

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Henry C. Shores  
Commissioner

W. Kent Carper  
Commissioner

David J. "Dave" Hardy  
Commissioner

March 24, 2010

To Whom it May Concern:

I was recently informed that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is working on a proposal to introduce a human right to water, and wanted to take the opportunity to talk about how the goal of providing that right is being achieved in Kanawha County, West Virginia.

I, along with the other members of the Kanawha County Commission, strongly believe that every citizen should have access to a clean, dependable water supply. The Kanawha County Commission has been striving for years to bring that service to the more rural areas of the county, areas where residents otherwise would rely on wells or haul water in for use in cisterns.

With the help of West Virginia American Water, a subsidiary of private utility American Water, we have been able to provide access to treated water service to all but about 2 percent of our County's residents. In the past 25 years, we have teamed up with West Virginia American Water, with the support of other local, state, and federal funding agencies, on projects totaling more than \$46 million to benefit approximately 6,000 customers. That is a significant achievement considering the abundance of hilly terrain here. We are currently working with the West Virginia American Water Company on a water main transmission line project that will provide better water flow to the Eastern part of the County -- which should not only boost economic development because this improved flow will be able to sustain expansion of existing businesses and the future of new ones -- but will also improve fire protection and thus help lower insurance rates. We are also working with West Virginia American Water on a number of smaller projects to extend water service to that remaining 2 percent of the County's population without treated water service.

Without what we refer to as public-private partnerships, in which we, the public entity, work closely with the private utility to obtain funding for water line extensions, many of our residents would be without a service that so many people in more urban areas take for granted -- a service that is essential to day-to-day life. We in Kanawha County have found a great friend and partner in West Virginia American Water Company, and look forward to continuing to work with this utility in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



W. Kent Carper  
President

WKC/krm

