



Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, Inc.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

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February 8, 2023

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The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 225 (Environment - Publicly-Owned Treatment Works - PFAS Monitoring)

Dear Chairman Feldman:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA), I am writing to **oppose** SB 225, which would mandate that each publicly-owned treatment works (POTW) in the State monitor influent, effluent, and biosolids for PFAS each quarter and report monitoring data on a discharge monitoring report (DMR). MAMWA requests that the Committee vote **NO** on SB 225 because it is overly broad and targets the wrong facilities.

MAMWA is a statewide association of local governments and wastewater treatment agencies that own and operate POTWs that serve approximately 95% of the State's sewered population. MAMWA is concerned about the possible impacts of PFAS on our communities and the local environment. However, POTWs are passive receivers of PFAS chemicals that enter treatment works from our customers. MAMWA respectfully suggests that any legislation on PFAS testing focus on the entities who are actual PFAS sources. Requiring the commercial and industrial users who produce or use PFAS to monitor for these chemicals would give the State much more useful data on where to direct future resources to reduce or eliminate loadings to the environment.

Putting the onus on these users is also fair. Certain commercial and industrial users have profited from the use or sale of PFAS products and materials. These facilities should be responsible for bearing the cost of monitoring and treatment under the concept of polluter pays. POTWs have not benefitted in any way from these compounds.

Please feel free to contact me at lisa@aqualaw.com or 804-716-9021 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ochsenhirt
Deputy General Counsel

cc: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members
SB 225 Sponsor

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