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MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Education, Business and
Administration Subcommittee

Pensions Subcommittee

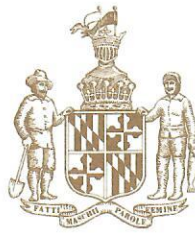
Joint Committees

Audit and Evaluation Committee

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Fair Practices and
State Personnel Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Testimony of Senator Joanne C. Benson
SB993:
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission-System
Development Charge-Review and Credit for Construction
of Facility

Good Afternoon Chairman Brian Feldman, Madam Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan, and the esteemed members
Of Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

The legislation in question has far-reaching implications for developers and builders operating within our state. Specifically, it seeks to address the ongoing issues surrounding the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission-System Development Charge Review and credit for the Construction of Facilities.

The crux of the matter here is that the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, (WSSC) has fallen short, by consistently failing to live up to its policy when it comes to reimbursing developers and contractors for completed work. This has led to a great deal of frustration and financial hardship for those involved in the construction industry in our state.

The proposed legislation aims to remedy this situation by mandating that the Office of the Inspector General review and approve all costs incurred by a developer within 60 days of the Commission confirming that the construction of an approved facility is complete. This is designed to ensure that developers receive prompt payment for their work and do not have to endure lengthy delays or administrative red tape.

Furthermore, the legislation provides for a penalty of 5% of the total cost of the project, compounded annually at a rate of 12%, to be paid by the Commission to the developer if they fail to approve the facility within 14 days of completing the review. This is intended to incentivize the Commission to act quickly and efficiently when it comes to approving completed work and to discourage any further delays or bureaucratic obstacles.

Thus, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB993