



## Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, Inc.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

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Laurel, MD 20707

Tel: 301-206-7008

### MEMBER AGENCIES

February 28, 2024

Allegany County  
Anne Arundel County  
City of Baltimore  
Baltimore County  
Town of Berlin  
Cecil County  
Charles County  
City of Cumberland  
D.C. Water  
Frederick County  
City of Hagerstown  
Harford County  
City of Havre de Grace  
Howard County  
Ocean City  
Pocomoke City  
Queen Anne's County  
City of Salisbury  
Somerset County Sanitary District  
St. Mary's Metro. Comm.  
Washington County  
WSSC Water

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

### Re: Request for Amendments -- SB 710 (Water Access for All Protection Act)

Dear Chairman Feldman:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA), I am writing to request amendments to SB 710, which would prohibit: (i) water utilities from disconnecting service to certain identified individuals, even if a bill is significantly overdue; (ii) many water utilities from enforcing a lien for unpaid fees; and (iii) a sanitary commission from enforcing an emergency water conservation order by disconnecting service. MAMWA is a statewide association of local governments and wastewater treatment agencies that serve approximately 95% of the State's sewerage population. Many Members also operate public water systems.

### CONSULTANT MEMBERS

MAMWA sees the good intent behind SB 710, and, of course, Members understand that some customers have difficulty paying water and/or sewer bills (in fact, MAMWA Members already work with these customers on payment arrangements to assist during financially stressful times). That said, if we are not collecting revenues from some customers, MAMWA Members will be compelled to recoup those lost revenues from our remaining customers to pay the fixed costs of running a municipal utility, forcing water and sewer rates up across the State. County and municipal water and wastewater plants are critically important public facilities that are very costly to operate.

Black & Veatch  
GHD Inc.  
Greeley and Hansen Engineers  
Hazen & Sawyer  
HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Jacobs  
Ramboll Americas  
Whitman, Requardt & Assoc.  
Xylem, Inc.

For these reasons, MAMWA requests amendments to create a statewide fund to assist with overdue water and sewer bills (with funding from the State's general revenues).

### GENERAL COUNSEL

AquaLaw PLC

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at [Lisa@AquaLaw.com](mailto:Lisa@AquaLaw.com) or 804-716-9021.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Ochsenhirt  
MAMWA Deputy General Counsel

cc: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members  
SB 710 Sponsor