



Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, Inc.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

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February 19, 2024

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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: Request For Amendments--SB 726 (Bay Restoration Fund-Authorized Uses-
Decommission of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon)**

Dear Chairman Feldman:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA), I am writing to request amendments to SB 726, which would authorize the use of the BRF for decommissioning of certain wastewater treatment lagoons and the purchase and installation of pump stations and related systems to send wastewater from the floodplain to another wastewater plant.

MAMWA is a statewide association of local governments and wastewater treatment agencies that serve approximately 95% of the State's sewer population. MAMWA members own and operate wastewater treatment plants that are capital-intensive and need regular maintenance and upgrades to comply with strict environmental requirements, to serve local customers, and to protect the environment. MAMWA members rely on the BRF for plant and conveyance system upgrades, combined sewer overflow abatement, and sewer system rehabilitation.

MAMWA requests an amendment that would clarify that payments from the BRF for wastewater upgrades would be prioritized over wastewater treatment lagoon decommissioning. This prioritization is already in the Environment Article, for example, with regard to the Clean Water Commerce Act ("After funding any eligible costs identified under item (iv)(1) and (2) of this paragraph, for transfers to the Clean Water Commerce Act in accordance with paragraph (3) of this subsection;"). (§9-1605.2(i)(2)(xiv)).

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

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Ochsenhirt, MAMWA Deputy General Counsel

cc: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, SB 726 Sponsor

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