

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 871
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT - COMMUNITY WATER AND SEWERAGE
SYSTEMS - CYBERSECURITY PLANNING AND ASSESSMENTS

DR. MATTHEW J. MITROKA
MARCH 26, 2025

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Committee:

I am Dr. Matthew J. Mitroka, PhD, CISSP. I am writing to support Senate Bill 871, "Department of the Environment—Community Water and Sewerage Systems—Cybersecurity Planning and Assessments." I served as the 2024 National Security Agency Fellow with the Maryland Attorney General's Office, contributing to the Maryland Cybersecurity Council's Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure. My comments are my own and are not intended to represent the views of the DoD.

The Subcommittee tasked me with investigating opportunities to enhance cybersecurity within Maryland's Water and Wastewater Systems Sector. My research culminated in a comprehensive report to the council, which included 50 actionable recommendations. Senate Bill 871 directly reflects a crucial subset of those recommendations.

In the past several weeks, additional changes have further stressed the importance of Maryland taking the lead in securing its water and wastewater systems sector:

- On March 19, the White House issued an Executive Order titled Achieving Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness, which places the onus on states and local governments to prepare for disasters, including cybersecurity-related incidents.
- The Department of Homeland Security cut a \$10M partnership with the Center for Internet Security for the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC).

The increasing integration of modern, internet-connected technologies in water systems has significantly heightened the risk of cyber incidents. Over the past several years, we have witnessed numerous cyberattacks targeting water systems across the United States. Notably, in 2024, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) warned about PRC state-sponsored cyber actors, Volt Typhoon, actively positioning themselves for potential cyberattacks against U.S. critical infrastructure. Furthermore, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has highlighted cybersecurity vulnerabilities in water plants and urged states to bolster their cyber resilience.

Coupled with reduced Federal assistance, these national-level threats pose direct and substantial risks to Maryland's water supply. **Senate Bill 871 represents a vital step towards strengthening Maryland's water cyber-resilience.** The systems addressed by this bill serve approximately 96% of Maryland's population, underscoring the critical importance of this legislation.

By enacting Senate Bill 871, Maryland will take proactive measures to secure its water systems and further solidify its position as a national leader in protecting critical infrastructure.

Thank you for considering this important matter. I urge the Committee to give Senate Bill 871 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Mitroka', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr. Matthew Mitroka