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February 25, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman and  
Members of the House of Delegate's  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Good afternoon Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Eyad Mizian, Chief Engineer at WSSC Water. I am here to testify in support of HB 1063 Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Design and Construction – Alternative Project Delivery and Solicitation Methods MC/PG 102-25. WSSC Water requests this bill to update Commission operations by aligning with current industry practices, helping WSSC Water to serve as a more efficient, cost-effective, and advanced water utility.

This proposed legislation repeals the provision in current law limiting WSSC Water to only enter design/bid/build contracts for facility construction projects exceeding \$2M and authorizes the Commission to adopt “alternative project delivery and solicitation methods” in the best interest of the Commission. Alternative methods such as “construction manager at-risk” (CMAR) and “progressive design/build” are commonly used throughout the water utility industry. Through these methods, the contractor is involved at each stage of the project, as opposed to design/bid/build contracts where the contractor is not involved in the planning and design phases. This often leads to several change orders and increased construction costs and delays. Earlier involvement of the contractor helps streamline the construction process, ensuring the needs of the project are accurately assessed, minimizing the need for change orders, potentially shortening project timelines, and providing cost savings.

This bill promotes financial stewardship and strengthens the Commission’s financial outlook and operational efficiency -- a benefit to all WSSC Water ratepayers. We respectfully request the Committee’s support of MC/PG 102-25. Our team looks forward to working with each of you during the 2025 State Legislative Session. I am available to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Eyad Mizian  
Chief Engineer