



Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, Inc.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

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GENERAL COUNSEL

AquaLaw PLC

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: LETTER OF INFORMATION -- SB 871 (Department of the Environment – Community Water and Sewerage Systems – Cybersecurity Planning and Assessments)

Dear Chairman Korman:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA), I am writing to provide a Letter of Information on SB 871, which would, **as amended**, require any water or wastewater provider that serves over 3,300 customers to comply with cybersecurity standards established by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) (p. 5, l. 17-31), commit to adopting a zero-trust cybersecurity approach and begin planning for that approach “as appropriate for each system” (p. 6, l. 1-6), and on or before July 1, 2026 and each two years thereafter conduct a maturity assessment of its cybersecurity program (p. 6, l. 7-13).

MAMWA is a statewide association of local governments and wastewater treatment agencies that serve approximately 95% of the State's sewerage population. Cybersecurity is a critical issue for water and wastewater systems and one that needs a balanced approach. In MAMWA's view, SB 871 as amended strikes the right balance between addressing this important issue and the everyday realities of operating a water and/or wastewater utility.

SB 871 Sponsor Senator Hester worked with MAMWA, the Maryland Association of Counties, and other stakeholders to address our initial concerns with the bill. We appreciate Senator Hester's leadership, willingness to listen to our perspectives, and work to amend the bill to clarify expectations for impacted localities should the bill pass.

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: Environment and Transportation Members, SB 871 Sponsor