



ACQUISITION

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**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
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**March 10, 2025**

Senator Katie Fry Hester  
James Senate Office Building, Room 304  
11 Bladen St, Annapolis, MD 21401

**Support for Senate Bill 871 / House Bill 1062 - Cybersecurity Planning and Assessments**

Senator Hester,

I am following my previously submitted testimony in support of SB871 and HB1062. In my capacity as the Director of Cyber Warfare in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, I am providing a summary of potential support for the implementation of this proposed legislation.

**What I Can Do:**

- I can commit to holding an Operational Technology (OT) cybersecurity workshop along the lines of what we have discussed previously, with representatives from the Maryland Executive Branch and the water providers in the State of Maryland (MD).
- I can commit to including Maryland Government personnel and water providers in a cyber-wargame.
- I am currently working with key players in the Department of Defense (DoD) to explore options for either providing grants at the state level or paying more for cyber hardened water services provided to DoD.
- I can facilitate a meeting with members of the West Virginia National Guard with OT cybersecurity expertise and the Maryland National Guard about how they could potentially collaborate to conduct cyber risk assessments at water providers and protect those assets at the State level.
- I can fund a Subject Matter Expert (SME) to collaborate with the Maryland Department of Information Technology (MD DoIT) on developing OT cybersecurity standards.
- I can identify free resources that MD DoIT could leverage to train SME in OT cybersecurity.
- I can talk to the Maryland National Guard about assigning an OT Cybersecurity SME on detail to MD DoIT.

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Can Potentially Do:

- I might be able to commit a finite number of resources to support planning and executing a cybersecurity pilot at a water treatment plant in MD that is important to the DoD.
- I could potentially coordinate an exchange of personnel where a MD State Employee works on my staff, and I send an OT cybersecurity SME to work at MD.
- I could explore sending a Liaison Officer to MD DoIT for a six-month rotation.

Cannot do:

- What I am almost positive that I cannot do in the near term is send resources directly to the state of MD to hire an OT Cybersecurity SME.

John J. Garstka  
Director, Cyber Warfare