



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 871

*Department of the Environment - Community Water and Sewerage Systems -
Cybersecurity Planning and Assessments*

MACo Position: **LETTER OF
INFORMATION**

To: Environment and Transportation and Health
and Government Operations Committees

Date: March 26, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

As amended, the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) offers a **LETTER OF INFORMATION** on SB 871. This bill strengthens cybersecurity protections for public water and wastewater systems by encouraging the adoption of a Zero-Trust security model and conducting maturity assessments. Cybersecurity is a critical issue for water and wastewater systems that local governments take very seriously.

Counties sincerely appreciate the sponsor's engagement and responsiveness in addressing county concerns regarding SB 871. Counties recognize the critical importance of cybersecurity in protecting public water and wastewater systems and are grateful for the collaborative efforts that have led to a more workable and balanced approach in this legislation. Strengthening cybersecurity protections for public water and wastewater systems is an important priority, and counties acknowledge the effort to craft a policy that enhances security while considering the operational realities of local governments.

With the amendments incorporated, counties feel comfortable with the bill's framework and its alignment with practical implementation needs. The flexibility provided allows counties to strengthen cybersecurity in a way that is both strategic and sustainable, ensuring that public systems remain protected without placing an undue burden on local resources. By ensuring a feasible pathway for counties to enhance cybersecurity resilience, this bill represents a meaningful step forward in safeguarding vital infrastructure.

Counties support stronger and balanced cybersecurity for water and wastewater systems. For these reasons, MACo offers the Committee this **LETTER OF INFORMATION** on SB 871.