



**Bill:** SB 189/HB 34 – Municipalities – Open Drainage Inlets – Required Grating Systems  
(Mason’s Law)

**Position:** Support w/Amendment

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, thank you for the opportunity to comment. The City supports protecting public safety and maintaining effective stormwater infrastructure.

However, as drafted, the City of Gaithersburg has concerns that this legislation would impose a significant unfunded mandate on local governments. The bill would require the installation of an approved grating system on all existing open drainage inlets by June 1, 2027. This blanket requirement would be costly, unnecessary in many cases, and impractical to implement within the proposed timeframe.

The City maintains numerous drainage inlets that are inaccessible to the general public, located in secured or limited-access areas, or otherwise pose minimal risk. Retrofitting these areas would divert limited local resources away from higher-priority needs.

A more effective and fiscally responsible approach would be to allow local governments to conduct a safety evaluation to identify drainage inlets that present a demonstrated risk to public safety. Protective measures could then be installed where warranted based on factors such as location, accessibility, and site-specific risk. This targeted approach would better align public safety outcomes with responsible use of local resources while preserving the bill’s intent.

For these reasons, the City respectfully requests that this legislation be amended.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jud Ashman, Mayor  
City of Gaithersburg

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