



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1230

*Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Procurement – Alterations
House Environment & Transportation Committee*

March 11, 2026

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
House Environment & Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1230 – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Procurement – Alterations

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

The Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce (PGCOC) respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1230. Founded in 1924, we represent more than 800 local businesses and serve as a voice for over one million employees across our county. Our members include contractors, suppliers, engineers, and professional service providers, many of whom are ready, willing, and able to compete for public infrastructure contracts. What they need are procurement systems that give them a fair shot. HB 1230 delivers that.

For too many of our member businesses, the biggest barrier to winning public contracts is not capacity, it is complexity. Duplicative registration requirements, eligibility frameworks that penalize growth, and limited pathways for veteran-owned firms have kept qualified businesses on the sideline. HB 1230 directly addresses each of these barriers.

The bill streamlines vendor registration by authorizing WSSC Water to accept existing county-based certifications. That means businesses that have already gone through a registration process elsewhere will not have to repeat it. It establishes a tiered participation framework that continues to prioritize the smallest local firms while creating a pathway for businesses that have grown beyond the "small" threshold — so that success does not become a penalty. And it formally recognizes veteran-owned and disabled veteran-owned businesses, opening a door that has long been closed to this community of entrepreneurs.

Water infrastructure is one of the most stable and enduring sources of public contracting in our region. The need does not go away. For our members, that represents a reliable pipeline of opportunity — if the procurement system lets them in. HB 1230 widens that door. More businesses competing means a stronger regional economy, a deeper supplier base, and more dollars staying in Prince George's County.

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The PGCOC has spent a century fighting for policies that make it easier to do business in Prince George's County. HB 1230 is exactly that kind of policy — practical, targeted, and built around what businesses need to compete.

We respectfully urge the Committee to give House Bill 1230 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander K. Austin

Alexander Austin
President & CEO
Prince George's Chamber of Commerce