



March 30, 2021

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Room 231
Annapolis, MD 21401

**PMI 2021
Board of
Directors**

The Honorable Kathleen M. Dumais
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Room 101
Annapolis, MD 21401

Todd Teter
House of
Rohi
President

RE: Maryland SB 418 – Maryland Energy Administration – Energy and Water Efficiency Standards

Martin
Knieps
Viega LLC
Vice
President

Dear Chair Davis and Vice Chair Dumais:

Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) appreciates this opportunity to provide comments regarding Maryland SB 418, that the House Economic Matters Committee will be considering on April 1st that looks to amend the efficiency standards of plumbing products that are sold and installed in the state. **PMI supports this bill if amended.**

Sal Gattone
LIXIL
Secretary-
Treasurer

PMI is an international, U.S.-based trade association representing manufacturers that provide 90% of the plumbing products sold in the United States. PMI members manufacture water-efficient toilets, urinals, faucets, showerheads and other plumbing products at more than 70 locations across the country for the residential and commercial marketplace. These products are readily available at home improvement stores, hardware stores and showrooms in all 50 states, as well as online. **In Maryland, plumbing manufacturers contribute \$796.4 million to the economy, provide more than 5,000 good paying jobs with their wholesale and retail partners, and generate \$280.6 million in wages.**

Joel Smith
Kohler Co.
Immediate
Past
President

Regarding the proposed bill that was approved by the Senate on March 4th, PMI supports the proposed efficiency standards for plumbing products that are in line with the flow rates of the EPA WaterSense® program. **However, we believe the following additional comments and modifications should be considered before the adoption and passage of this bill into law.** PMI's proposed bill text changes are indicated in **red** below:

Fernando
Fernandez
TOTO USA

Daniel
Gleiberman
Sloan Valve
Co.

- There are several plumbing product definitions in the bill that are not defined in accordance with industry standards that are referenced in the Maryland Plumbing Code. These industry standards are ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1 for plumbing fixture fittings such as faucets and showerheads and ASME A112.19.2/CSA B45.1 for plumbing fixtures such as urinals and water closets. The below definitions should be revised in accordance with these industry standards for proper application and enforcement as follows:

Bob Neff
Delta Faucet
Co.

- On page 3 (lines 23 – 27), "Faucet" means a ~~device: 1. By which water flows from a pipe or container; and 2. that can control the flow of water from the pipe or container~~ fitting that controls and guides the flow of water in a supply system.
- On page 4 (lines 16 – 17), "Public Lavatory Faucet" means a ~~fitting intended to be installed in a non-residential bathroom that is exposed to walk-in traffic faucet designed to be installed in a public bathroom.~~ fitting intended to be installed in a non-residential bathroom that is exposed to walk-in traffic
- On page 4 (lines 29 – 30), "Showerhead" means ~~an accessory to a supply fitting for spraying water onto a bather, typically from an overhead position~~ a device through which water is discharged for a shower bath.

Chip Way
Lavelle
Industries,
Inc.

- On page 5 (lines 9 - 12), “Urinal” means a plumbing fixture that: ~~1. Is designed to receive~~ only liquid body waste from a standing person; and ~~2. conveys the waste~~ through a trap into a drainage system.
- On page 5 (lines 17 - 19), “Water Closet” means a plumbing fixture having a water-containing ~~receptor receptacle that receives~~ designed to dispose of liquid and solid body waste and on actuation conveys the waste through an exposed integral trap into a drainage system.
- On page 5 (line 1), since a “showerhead” includes a “hand-held showerhead,” a definition should be added in accordance with the industry standard ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1 for proper application and enforcement as follows:

“Hand-held shower” means a showerhead that can be held or fixed in place for spraying water onto a bather and that is connected to a flexible hose.

- On page 11 (lines 23 – 27), regarding the effective date of the proposed bill, PMI believes that for retailers and distributors (including local hardware stores) to meet the new efficiency standards without incurring excessive costs or hardship, the efficiency standards should only apply to the sale of products manufactured on or after March 1, 2023 to allow sufficient time for existing product on shelves to be sold. PMI recommends revising the text as follows:

(2) BEGINNING MARCH 1, 2023, A NEW PRODUCT MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER THIS DATE AND SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B)(1)(III) THROUGH (XIII) OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE SOLD OR OFFERED FOR SALE IN THE STATE UNLESS THE EFFICIENCY OF THE NEW PRODUCT MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE EFFICIENCY STANDARDS SPECIFIED IN THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

- On page 12 (lines 13 – 15), PMI is very concerned with the below text that allows for the Maryland Energy Administration to increase the efficiency standards for new products identified in this bill without public input. PMI strongly recommends that the Maryland Energy Administration should be required to seek public input on any amendment to efficiency standards for a period of no less than 45 days which is the common practice of other states.

[(h)] (F) (1) The Administration may adopt regulations to increase the efficiency standards for the products listed in subsection [(b)(1)(x) through (xvi)] (B)(1) of this section.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Matt Sigler
 Technical Director
 Plumbing Manufacturers International
 Office 847-217-7212
msigler@safeplumbing.org

cc: House Economic Matters Committee

PMI Members

- *Bradley Corporation *Brasscraft Manufacturing Company *CSA Group *Delta Faucet Company *Dornbracht Americas, Inc. *Duravit USA, Inc.
 *Elkay *Fisher Manufacturing Company *Fluidmaster, Inc. *Gerber Plumbing Fixtures, LLC *Hansgrohe, Inc.
 *Haws Corporation *IAPMO *International Code Council – Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) *KEROX *Kohler Company *Lavelle Industries, Inc. *LIXIL
 *Moen Incorporated *NEOPERL, Inc. *NSF International *Pfister *Reliance Worldwide Corporation *Similor AG *Sloan Valve Company *Sprite
 *Symmons Industries, Inc. *T & S Brass and Bronze Works, Inc. *TOTO USA *UL, LLC *Viega, LLC *Water Pik, Inc. *WCM Industries, Inc.