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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve and
Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
6 Bladen Street, Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: **SUPPORT – HB 501 – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Board of Ethics
Financial Disclosure Statements - Late Fees (MC/PG 102-21)**

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) **SUPPORTS** HB 501 – *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Board of Ethics Financial Disclosure Statements - Late Fees (MC/PG 102-21)*.

The proposed legislation authorizes the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) Board of Ethics to impose a fee on individuals who file late or fail to file required financial disclosure statements.

WSSC Code of Regulations requires annual financial disclosure statements to be filed by all employees under the executive salary schedule, Grade 12 or above under the general salary schedule, or those holding decision making positions as designated by the General Manager. Members of WSSC advisory boards and committees are required to file a limited financial disclosure statement concerning any financial interest or gifts that may create a conflict of interest between their personal interests and advisory duties. Commissioners are required to file financial disclosures with the Maryland State Board of Ethics pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen Provisions §5- 601.

Financial disclosure statements are required to be filed on or before April 30th of each year for the period commencing January 1st and ending December 31st of the preceding year. A person who is appointed or hired on or after April 30th of any year to fill a position for which a disclosure statement is required must file within 30 days of employment; this disclosure statement covers the same time period of the previous year, irrespective of the person's employment with WSSC during that time. Any person who leaves a position for which a disclosure statement is required to file the statement

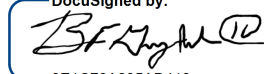
within 60 days after leaving the position. This disclosure statement covers the preceding year, unless a disclosure statement covering that year has already been filed. In that case, a disclosure statement must be filed that covers the portion of the current year in which the person held the position.

As WSSC is a bicounty state agency, this bill would authorize the WSSC Board of Ethics to adopt a fee structure that mirrors the one used by the Maryland State Ethics Commission, and would allow for the assessment of a late fee of \$5 for each day late, not to exceed a total of \$500, to any individual who fails to file a timely financial disclosure statement.

WSSC requests your **SUPPORT** for HB 501 to allow the WSSC Board of Ethics to impose a fee on a fee on individuals who file late or fail to file required financial disclosure statements.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 240-917-5356 or guy.andes@wsscwater.com.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Benjamin F. Guy Andes IV
Government Affairs Manager