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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 2, 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 789 – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Video Streaming and Archiving Meetings and Late Payment Charges (MC/PG 100-21)**

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

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) **SUPPORTS** HB 789 – *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Video Streaming and Archiving Meetings and Late Payment Charges (MC/PG 100-21)*.

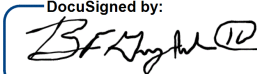
HB 789 requires WSSC to stream live video or teleconference audio or other audio of the open meetings of the Commission, and to maintain on its website a complete and unedited archived recording of livestreamed open meetings. Provisions are included that protect the validity of actions taken during a meeting for which a technical issue prevented or affected the live-streaming or recording of a meeting so long as the meeting complies with the Open Meetings Act and the issue is not the result of willful action by the Commission.

Additionally, HB 789 adds a provision in the Customer Assistance Program statute that provides financial assistance under the program may include the reduction or waiver of fees, including late fees. This will expand the assistance WSSC can provide to our most vulnerable customers.

WSSC thanks the sponsor for working with the Commission to propose a bill that meets their legislative intent, addresses the Commission's concerns, provide protections of Commission actions related to open meetings, and stipulates which customers are eligible to receive a reduction in late fees. For these reasons, **WSSC requests a FAVORABLE report for HB 789.**

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