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February 15, 2022

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

Re: **SUPPORT – HB 400 – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Hiring and Promotion Preferences - Veterans and Their Spouses PG/MC 106-22**

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

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC Water) **SUPPORTS** HB 400 – *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Hiring and Promotion Preferences - Veterans and Their Spouses PG/MC 106-22*.

HB 400 repeals the current statute pertaining to the WSSC Water competitive selection process for appointments of veterans and adopts the processes utilized by the State of Maryland.

Under current law, in order for a veteran to be eligible to receive preference in a competitive selection process for appointment, the individual must be an honorably discharged veteran of the United States armed forces who was a bona fide resident of the State of Maryland when the individual entered the armed forces.

HB 400 will remove the residency requirement for a veteran to be eligible to receive preference in hiring and promotions, and expand the eligibility to individuals who have received an honorable discharge or certificate of satisfactory completion of military service to include: The National Guard; the military reserves; the Commissioned Corps of Public Health Service; and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In addition to eligible veterans, the bill also authorizes WSSC Water to grant a preference to the spouse of an eligible veteran who has a service connected disability or the surviving spouse of a deceased eligible veteran.

WSSC Water requests a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 400 to enhance our competitive hiring and promotion processes for individuals who served in the armed forces and their spouses.

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