



Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, Inc.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

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February 22, 2023

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The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: OPPOSE -- SB 513 (Collection and Reporting of Drinking Water and Wastewater Data and Information - Requirements)

Dear Chairman Feldman:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA), I am writing to convey MAMWA's **opposition** to SB 513, which would require that a water utility provide the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) with detailed customer, system, and financial data on a monthly or annual basis for inclusion on a public database. MAMWA is a statewide association of local governments and wastewater treatment agencies that serve approximately 95% of the State's sewered population. Many Members also operate public water systems.

CONSULTANT MEMBERS

Black & Veatch
GHD Inc.
Greeley and Hansen Engineers
Hazen & Sawyer
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Jacobs
Ramboll Americas
Whitman, Requardt & Assoc.
Xylem, Inc.

GENERAL COUNSEL

AquaLaw PLC

SB 513 includes a list of 55 data points for submission. Some data points raise serious public safety concerns. For example, the bill would require that a utility provide a "map and a detailed description of service area boundaries of the water utility." MAMWA Members are concerned that putting maps on the internet would increase the risk of potential harm from bad actors. Some data points may be impossible to pull together. For example, it is unclear how a water utility would know how many vacant homes there are in the service area that receive a water bill short of knocking on individual doors. Some data points are duplicative. MAMWA Members are already providing certain operational and distribution data to MDE. Some data points are of uncertain value. MAMWA questions whether the public is interested in the amount of energy used to provide drinking water or wastewater services. Taken together, gathering all 55 data points would be highly burdensome for large and small systems alike. MAMWA Members have shared that they may need to hire an employee or employees just to manage these data submissions. For all these reasons, **MAMWA urges the Committee to vote "NO" on SB 513.** Please feel free to contact me with any questions at Lisa@AquaLaw.com or 804-716-9021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Ochsenhirt".

Lisa M. Ochsenhirt, MAMWA Deputy General Counsel

cc: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members, SB 513 Sponsor