



Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, Inc.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

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March 30, 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: HB 624 (Environment – Suppliers of Water – Notification Requirements)

Dear Chairman Feldman:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA), I am writing to share MAMWA's views on HB 624, which would, among other things, require that a water supplier immediately begin preparations for issuing a boil water advisory for a positive e.coli test in the system. MAMWA is a statewide association of local governments and wastewater treatment agencies that serve approximately 95% of the State's sewer population. Many Members also operate public water systems.

Nothing is more important to MAMWA Members who provide public drinking water than the health and safety of local customers. Members work hard every day to ensure full compliance with all applicable regulations while also providing excellent customer service at a reasonable cost. We agree with the intent behind HB 624. However, we are concerned that the proposed approach would be redundant or even inconsistent with the existing notification approach for the presence of e.coli in the distribution system. Specifically, under federal and state law, there are established steps that must be taken if a public water system pulls a sample that is positive for e.coli (including re-testing and notifying the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)). HB 624 would layer additional requirements on top of the existing protocols and could cause confusion as local water suppliers and MDE work together to notify customers and address any underlying issues with the distribution system. We respectfully request that the General Assembly consider whether it would be more appropriate to address this important issue either by adapting current practice or administratively.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at Lisa@AquaLaw.com or 804-716-9021.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Ochsenhirt, MAMWA Deputy General Counsel

GENERAL COUNSEL

AquaLaw PLC

cc: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members, HB 624 Sponsor