



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

**SB 880 - Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 15, 2023**

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 880 with amendments. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

Access to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water is a human right recognized by the United Nations.¹ Residents of the greater Baltimore region have worked hard to protect their water infrastructure from privatization and organize for lower bills.

This task force will issue recommendations that impact hundreds of thousands of families and thousands of workers employed by the water and wastewater systems in and around the city. It is essential that workers directly have a voice on this task force in order to provide input and feedback on decisions that might impact them.

We encourage the committee to issue a favorable report with the following amendment.

Add the following language to Page 3, Line 9, moving all subsequent language down:

(vii) two members representing water and wastewater workers, appointed by the Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO.

¹ United Nations General Assembly Resolution, "A/RES/64/292." July 2010.