

An Affiliate of
the Maryland Association
of Counties, Inc.



DATE: March 8, 2023
TO: Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO)

RE: HB 1003 – Wicomico County – Seasonal Restaurants – Potable Running Water and
Graywater
POSITION: Letter of Opposition

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (the Conference) and the Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) **OPPOSE HB 1003** which would allow a seasonal restaurant to operate without providing potable running water to customers.

According to the 2022 FDA Food Code, one of the major risk factors related to employee behaviors and preparation practices in retail and food service establishments contributing to illness is **poor personal hygiene**. Exempting a seasonal restaurant from providing potable running water to properly wash hands only increases those risks for foodborne illness.

Furthermore, the Code of Maryland Regulations addresses controls for risk factors and establishes public health interventions to protect consumer health. Current statutes ensure that all food establishments in Maryland are operated and maintained in a manner that assures all food is prepared and served under conditions necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. This bill severely undermines the purpose for both regulation and statute pertaining to Food Service Facilities.

For these reasons, we ask that the committee give **HB 1003** an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this matter. If you have further questions concerning this written position, please contact:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Cumers".

Matt Cumers, President
Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Maiorana".

Ruth Maiorana, Executive Director
Maryland Association of County Health Officers
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