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Maryland General Assembly
Legislative Services Building
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Washington and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

The Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works writes this letter to support the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies' (MAMWA) request for amendments to Senate Bill 572 - Collection and Reporting of Drinking Water and Wastewater Documents, Data, and Information.

As drafted, this legislation would require the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works to publish information unrelated to water quality within the County's annual water quality consumer confidence report (CCR). The CCR contains important information about the quality of public water resources and DPW is concerned the volume of information required by this legislation will overshadow the intent of the CCR.

This legislation would require the County to include information related to payment policies in the CCR. The County has well established methods of providing payment policy information to our customers, which includes a multimedia approach to providing this important information to our utility customers. In our experience, information about billing and fee changes is best communicated through a combination of online material, printed mailers, and in-person door hangers. It is unlikely customers will seek to find this information in the CCR and it is more likely to detract from the main purpose of the CCR. Anne Arundel County supports MAMWA's request to amend SB 572 to require posting of the information on a website without a link to the CCR process.

We appreciate your hard work in the General Assembly and believe it is best to allow local jurisdictions to provide payment policy information in the manner that has proven most effective in their jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Henry".

Karen Henry
Director