



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 1509 - Baltimore Regional Water Governance Model Workgroup - Established  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
March 12, 2024**

**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 HB 1509 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. 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 their firsthand knowledge and input.

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

*Striking “.” on Page 1, Line 21 and substituting “; and”*

*Add the following language to Page 2, Line 1, moving all subsequent language down:*

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

*Striking “10” from Page 2, Line 19 and substituting “12”*

*Amending the following language to Page 2, Line 9 to read, “(ii) represent ratepayers in their respective jurisdictions, unless otherwise stated in Section 1 (b) (1).”*

Thank you.