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March 6, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman and
Members of the House of Delegate's
Environment and Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Good afternoon Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Kenneth Simons, Government Affairs Manager at WSSC Water. I am here to testify in support of HB 1064 Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming Requirement MC/PG 101-25.

This proposed legislation, sponsored by Montgomery County House Delegation Chair Julie Palakovich Carr, would alter the current requirement that WSSC Water and the Montgomery County Planning Board live stream video or audio of its open meetings. This live streaming requirement limits both entities from conducting educational activities in the field and site visits in locations where live streaming is not feasible. The current live streaming requirement was implemented in response to COVID- 19 postures during the pandemic and is more stringent for WSSC Water and the Montgomery County Planning Board than other entities covered under Maryland's Open Meetings Act. This bill, as amended, would provide an exception to the live streaming requirement for educational field tours and project site visits conducted by WSSC Water and the Montgomery County Planning Board.

WSSC Water Commissioners voted unanimously to support this legislation. This bill gives the Commission more flexibility to engage and communicate in the communities it serves. WSSC Water requests a favorable report from the committee on HB 1064.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Kenneth Simons
Government Affairs Manager