



Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, Inc.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

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March 3, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SUPPORT -- HB 1296 (Environment – Managed Aquifer Recharge Pilot Program – Establishment)

Dear Chair Korman:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA), I am writing to **SUPPORT HB 1296**, which would establish a Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Pilot program within the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). MAMWA is a statewide association of local governments and wastewater treatment agencies that serve approximately 95% of the State's sewerage population.

MAR has been successfully implemented across the United States, including in Florida, California, New Jersey, Arizona, and Oregon. MAR projects can have multiple benefits including improving groundwater resiliency, reducing the risks of aquifer depletion associated with sinking groundwater levels and saltwater intrusion, and, in Maryland, decreasing the level of nutrients that are being discharged to the Chesapeake Bay.

MAMWA supports Maryland wastewater utilities having the option to participate in a MAR pilot program on a voluntary basis. MAMWA notes that HB 1296 would only establish a pilot, which would allow MDE and the General Assembly to consider the impacts of MAR based on a demonstration facility (or facilities) before the State decides whether to implement MAR more broadly. In addition, HB 1296 has extensive treatment, testing, monitoring, and recordkeeping safeguards that will ensure that any demonstration projects are carefully planned and implemented subject to MDE oversight.

MAMWA urges the Committee to **Vote YES** on HB 1296.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at Lisa@AquaLaw.com or 804-716-9021.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Ochsenhirt
MAMWA Deputy General Counsel

GENERAL COUNSEL

AquaLaw PLC

cc: Environment and Transportation Members, HB 1296 Sponsor