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Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Executive Nominations Committee

*Joint Committees*  
Administrative, Executive,  
and Legislative Review  
Children, Youth, and Families  
Program Open Space and Agricultural  
Land Preservation

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
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**Senate Bill 799 – Water Companies and Sewage Disposal Companies - Eminent Domain Proceedings and Service Rates**

March 3, 2026

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 799 Water Companies and Sewage Disposal Companies - Eminent Domain Proceedings and Service Rates. This legislation provides critical protections for Maryland residents by ensuring that the Public Service Commission cannot approve rate increases for water or sewage disposal companies when a county or municipality has initiated or signaled intent to commence condemnation proceedings. By preventing unjustified rate hikes during these transitions, SB799 safeguards consumers from financial burdens while promoting transparency and fairness in utility governance.

Additionally, SB799 strengthens the eminent domain process by requiring fact finders to consider essential factors such as necessary system upgrades for safe and reliable service and the potential value to customers from reduced water or sewer bills if ownership shifts to a local government. These provisions prioritize public interest and affordability, ensuring that communities benefit from improved infrastructure and cost savings.

I thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay  
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland  
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties