



Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, Inc.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

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February 27, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: OPPOSE-- SB 687 (Environment – Flood Risk Review Process - Establishment)

Dear Chair Feldman:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA), I am writing to **OPPOSE SB 687**, which would require that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) implement a flood risk review process for certain areas of the State if development is proposed in those areas.

MAMWA is a statewide association of local governments and wastewater treatment agencies that serve approximately 95% of the State's sewer population. Many of MAMWA's members also operate a public water system. MAMWA Members are frequently required to obtain local stormwater management approval and/or MDE approval for local drinking water and wastewater capital construction projects.

MAMWA objects to SB 687 because it is unnecessary.

MDE has been working diligently for several years now to implement Advancing Stormwater Resiliency in Maryland (A-StoRM) (SB 227, 2021). In fact, in September, 2024, MDE issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) to update its stormwater regulations and the State's Stormwater Design Manual. From MDE's ANPRM: "The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is considering revisions to regulations in COMAR 26.17.02, with a focus on updating stormwater management requirements and the design manual to reflect modern rainfall data, climate-driven flood risks, and statewide consistency." MDE's work is meant to address the increased potential for flooding from development and redevelopment. SB 687 is unnecessary given MDE's significant progress in updating the State's stormwater requirements.

MAMWA supports allowing MDE to move forward with its A-StoRM efforts, without adding more tasks to MDE's worklist (e.g., requiring MDE to evaluate broad development patterns in a watershed before approving a permit).

For the reasons above, MAMWA urges the Committee to **Vote NO** on SB 687.

CONSULTANT MEMBERS

Black & Veatch
GHD, Inc.
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HDR Engineering, Inc.
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WRA

GENERAL COUNSEL

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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

cc: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members, SB 687 Sponsor