MARYLAND BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
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February 4, 2026

Hon. Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: HB204 - Drinking Water - Regulation - Control and Prevention of Waterborne Disease

Dear Chair Korman,

The Maryland Building Industry Association is submitting testimony in opposition to HB204, while we share the goal of protecting public health and reducing the risk of Legionnaires' disease, this bill raises significant concerns related to feasibility, cost, redundancy with existing regulations, and unintended consequences for water suppliers and ratepayers. Public water systems are already subject to extensive federal and state regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act and related EPA rules governing disinfectant residuals, monitoring, reporting, and corrective actions. This legislation would layer additional requirements on top of an already complex regulatory framework without clearly demonstrating that existing authorities are insufficient or ineffective.

The bill establishes minimum detectable disinfectant residual levels and expanded testing requirements that may not be technically achievable across all parts of a distribution system at all times, particularly during construction, emergency repairs, or in older infrastructure. The bill would impose new and potentially significant costs on water suppliers, many of which would ultimately be passed on to ratepayers. These costs are not accompanied by a clear funding mechanism, technical assistance, or flexibility for smaller or resource-constrained systems.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose the bill as drafted and urge the Committee to consider alternative approaches that:-

- Provide flexibility based on system size and conditions,
- Clarify responsibility between public water systems and private building owners
- Focus on targeted, evidence-based interventions rather than broad new mandates.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.