



March 10, 2026

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Prince George's County  
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Chair Marc Korman  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Letter of Support – PG/MC 102-26 (HB1230): Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Procurement – Alterations**

Dear Chair Korman,

On behalf of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Prince George's County (HCCPG), I write to express our strong support for PG/MC 102-26 (HB1230), legislation that modernizes procurement processes at the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC Water) and expands opportunities for local, small, minority, and veteran-owned businesses.

HCCPG represents a diverse network of entrepreneurs, contractors, and small businesses across Prince George's County. Many of our members have worked directly with WSSC Water and have firsthand experience with the Commission's commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) and small businesses in our region. We appreciate WSSC Water's thoughtful and forward-looking approach to strengthening procurement participation for local businesses and ensuring economic growth remains within our communities.



This legislation is especially timely as WSSC Water prepares to invest \$4.8 billion in infrastructure improvements through its Capital Improvements Program, an investment that will have a significant economic impact on Maryland's workforce and business ecosystem.

HB1230 makes practical and strategic updates that will strengthen participation and ensure that local businesses are better positioned to compete for these opportunities.

From the perspective of the business community, we believe this legislation provides several important benefits:

**Expanding opportunities for local and small businesses.**

The bill strengthens participation programs by broadening eligibility and ensuring that businesses operating within Prince George's and Montgomery Counties have improved access to procurement opportunities.

**Streamlining vendor registration processes.**

For many small and emerging businesses, administrative barriers—particularly during the vendor registration process—can prevent them from even entering the procurement pipeline. By allowing recognition of vendor certifications from other jurisdictions and enabling self-certification where appropriate, the bill removes duplicative steps while maintaining integrity and accountability.

**Supporting minority-owned, veteran-owned, and disabled veteran-owned businesses.**

The legislation recognizes the importance of expanding procurement pathways for historically underrepresented businesses, including veteran and disabled veteran entrepreneurs, aligning with state and federal priorities that support veteran business participation.

**Promoting workforce development and local hiring.**

The bill authorizes WSSC Water to adopt regulations that encourage workforce engagement, apprenticeship programs, skills training, and local hiring initiatives. These provisions will ensure that major infrastructure investments translate into real workforce opportunities for residents in our communities.

**Strengthening Maryland's economic ecosystem.**

WSSC Water serves nearly two million residents in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and plays a major role in the regional economy.

This legislation helps ensure that public infrastructure investments generate lasting economic benefits by keeping contracting dollars circulating within Maryland's small business community.



Importantly, HB1230 modernizes procurement processes without altering or weakening the existing Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program, ensuring that long-standing diversity goals remain intact while expanding opportunities for a broader set of qualified businesses.

At HCCPG, we regularly work with entrepreneurs who are ready and capable of contributing to major public infrastructure projects but who often face barriers to entry in the procurement system. HB1230 represents a thoughtful and balanced approach that removes unnecessary administrative hurdles, strengthens vendor participation pathways, and aligns procurement practices with the scale of investments being made in our region.

For these reasons, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Prince George's County respectfully urges your support for PG/MC 102-26 (HB1230).

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to economic opportunity for Maryland's diverse business community. We look forward to supporting efforts that strengthen our workforce, expand entrepreneurship, and build a more inclusive and competitive economy.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dr. Jennifer Rios*

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