



March 23, 2026

**Bill:** SB189/HB34-Municipalities - Open Drainage Inlets - Required Grating Systems (Mason's Law)

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

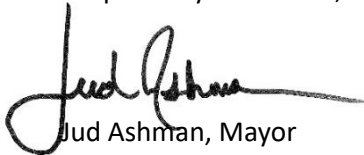
On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, we respectfully request amendments addressing the following concerns:

- The bill imposes an unfunded mandate on local governments, requiring municipalities to comply with new infrastructure standards without providing any dedicated state funding or financial assistance.
- The bill requires municipalities to inventory all publicly and privately owned open drainage inlets by July 1, 2027, develop a prioritization plan for improvements by April 1, 2028, and complete retrofits by April 1, 2031.
- This approach is impractical and overly burdensome because it requires costly compliance without state funding to support implementation.

We appreciate the intent of this legislation and respectfully request that the Committee consider these concerns to better align the bill with local operational and fiscal realities while still achieving its intended safety objectives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Jud Ashman, Mayor  
City of Gaithersburg

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