



Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies, Inc.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

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Laurel, MD 20707

Tel: 301-206-7008

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GENERAL COUNSEL

AquaLaw PLC

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: OPPOSE -- HB 779 (Natural Resources – Riverine Siting and Design Criteria - Requirements)

Dear Chair Korman:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA), I am writing to **OPPOSE HB 779**, which would impose siting and design requirements for certain local capital projects that receive state funding and that are located in riverine areas of the State.

MAMWA is a statewide association of local governments and wastewater treatment agencies that serve approximately 95% of the State's sewer population. Many MAMWA Members also operate public water systems (PWS). Sewer and drinking water structures are often located near the State's rivers and their tributaries for understandable reasons (PWS withdraw raw water for treatment and wastewater treatment plants discharge highly treated effluent into these waterbodies).

HB 779 would require that any future construction or reconstruction of these facilities be done so the facility can withstand flooding associated with a 500-year flooding event. Although MAMWA Members generally support resiliency in our design and construction of these facilities, a mandatory requirement to do so for 500-year flooding events would drive up construction costs exponentially. MAMWA Members would be forced to increase rates **for our customers and your constituents** to pay for additional floodproofing, building and equipment elevation, anchoring of key equipment, etc. As representatives of our customers, we are very reluctant to increase water and sewer rates when families and businesses are facing increasing inflation and other financial pressures.

For these reasons, MAMWA urges the Committee to vote **NO** on HB 779.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at Lisa@AquaLaw.com or 804-716-9021.

MAMWA Letter on HB 779

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lisa M. Ochsenhirt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Ochsenhirt" clearly legible.

Lisa M. Ochsenhirt

MAMWA Deputy General Counsel

cc: Environment and Transportation Committee Members, HB 779 Sponsors