



John A. Olszewski, Jr.
County Executive



Brandon M. Scott, Mayor
Bill Henry, Comptroller

April 3, 2023

Honorable Bill Ferguson, President
Maryland Senate

Honorable Adrienne Jones, Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates

Senator Charles Sydnor, Chair
Baltimore County Senate Delegation

Delegate Stephanie Smith, Chair
Baltimore City House Delegation

Senator Jill Carter, Chair
Baltimore City Senate Delegation

Delegate Eric Ebersole, Chair
Baltimore County House Delegation

Re: Senate Bill 880 and House Bill 843

Dear President Ferguson, Speaker Jones, Senators Sydnor and Carter, and Delegates Smith and Ebersole:

We write today to acknowledge concerns raised regarding the joint Baltimore City – Baltimore County priority bills, SB 880 and HB 843 – Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force.

As you know, our administrations came together last year to begin an important conversation about the best path forward for our regional water and wastewater system. We have been grateful for your leadership and support of these efforts. The task force that this bill would create will make critical recommendations to modernize the governance and operations of our regional utility – a goal we all share.

We have heard clearly that stakeholders in our region remain concerned that this Task Force could recommend privatization of the water and wastewater infrastructure currently owned and operated by Baltimore City. Let us assure you that this is not the purpose or goal for this legislation or the Task Force it would create. Our Administrations stand firm on this point.

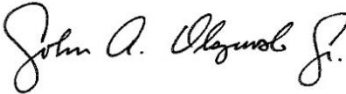
We are well aware of the important role that organized labor plays in operating our regional utilities, and we fully expect Task Force recommendations to reflect and honor this relationship. We are also very mindful that too many of our regional residents have difficulty affording their current water and wastewater bills. In exploring options and opportunities for future water and wastewater services, staffing, billing, and capital planning, a primary goal is to stabilize rates, especially for our most vulnerable residents.

We respectfully seek your continued leadership in moving favorably on SB880 and HB843, without further amendment, so that State, City and County stakeholders can begin the critical work of reimagining regional water and wastewater systems that truly serve ALL of our regional stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Brandon Scott, Mayor
Baltimore City



John Olszewski, Jr, County Executive
Baltimore County