



January 13, 2022

The Honorable Janet Cruz  
Florida Senate  
216 Senate Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100  
cruz.janet@flsenate.gov

**RE: SB 676 – *Drinking Water in Public Schools***

Dear Senator Cruz,

On behalf of the American Supply Association (ASA), the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), NSF International (NSF), and the Water Quality Association (WQA), we want to thank you for your sponsorship of SB 676, *Drinking Water in Schools*. Your bill is very timely and will greatly assist Florida's efforts to get the lead out of schools – protecting students and faculty alike.

**Our organizations support SB 676 with the request that the following sections be amended, and the proposed language included.**

- 1. Sec. (2)(c); Lines 43 & 44: “Point of use filter” or “filter” means a water filtration system that treats water at a single tap.**

This language would currently exclude under-counter Reverse Osmosis (RO) systems. Considering that the drinking water in many school buildings may contain contaminants in addition to or other than lead, other POU technologies should be considered as a viable option. Treating the water near the tap through a certified NSF/ANSI 58 RO system would help mitigate harmful contaminants including lead and allow for more remediation options for schools. Also, the addition of a certification requirement in the language is consistent with Federal and Florida requirements for other plumbing and drinking water components. To further provide built in flexibility and sound policy, we recommend the language be amended to:

*“Certified point-of-use filter” or “Certified filter” means a water filtration system that treats water at a single tap and that is certified by a third-party Certifying Body (CB) accredited by the American National Standards Institute National Accreditation Board (ANAB) to a pertinent NSF/ANSI American National Standard for drinking water treatment units for lead reduction*

- 2. Sec. (3); Line 48: “schools were built before 1986...”**



Older premise plumbing is often associated with lead issues. However, lead can seep into potable water from other sources before reaching the tap. We recommend striking this requirement and that funding should be available to any school that finds lead in their drinking water.

**3. Sec 3(a)(1); Lines 15 & 55: The filter must be installed by a school district staff member.**

While this requirement may be appropriate for some filters such as faucet mounts, we would not recommend this approach for more complex treatment systems and filters. We strongly recommend striking this requirement and feel that this topic is appropriately addressed in language we propose in item #4 of this letter.

**4. Sec. 3; Line 60 & 61: The filter must have a certified capacity of 7,900 gallons and, at a minimum, must be changed or replaced annually.**

Systems as large as those mentioned in the bill language raise serious safety concerns. These concerns are further compounded by the current requirement that the installation of a system of this size be installed by district staff which raises the potential for improper installation. Furthermore, this portion of the bill is also contradictory to the requirements specified in line 53 & 54 to follow the manufacturer's instructions. A requirement to replace the filter on time is arbitrary and replacement should be considered based off use and capacity of the device. Finally, there are filters certified for a wide range of capacities. Specifying a single capacity requirement such as 7,900 gallons unnecessarily limits the many options for available, certified filters. We recommend this section be amended to state:

*The filter must be installed, used, maintained, and replaced according to the manufacturer's directions.*

**5. Sec. 3(a)(2); Lines 57 – 59: 2. The filter or all of its component parts must meet the NSF International/American National Standards Institute Standard 53: Drinking Water Treatment Units - Health Effects**

We strongly recommend the proposed amendment to SB 676 to provide clarification regarding standards and the certification of these products. The change that we are proposing is consistent with guidance from EPA as well as recent legislation at the Federal and state levels. This amended language requires that filters be independently certified to meet NSF standards for lead by accredited certification bodies. It clarifies the bill's reference to NSF/ANSI 53 by specifying the requirement for lead reduction which is necessary. It broadens the requirement to include NSF/ANSI 42 which addresses particulate lead in drinking water. It adds NSF/ANSI 58 which is the industry-recognized standard for under-counter Reverse Osmosis (RO) systems. It further adds the "latest version" of NSF/ANSI 53 & 42 to ensure incorporation of the latest advancements of the standard in Florida's implementation. This important proposed amendment reads:

*The filter must be certified to the latest version of NSF/ANSI 53 for lead reduction and the latest version of NSF/ANSI 42 for particulate reduction (class 1) and/or the latest version of NSF/ANSI 58 by a certification body accredited by the American National Standards Institute National Accreditation Board*



Thank you again for your leadership on this important topic. We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate on this vital water quality legislation. We will be happy to work with you and others to answer questions surrounding water treatment.

Sincerely yours,

American Supply Association (ASA)

International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

NSF International

Water Quality Association (WQA)

### **About ASA**

The American Supply Association is the national industry trade association representing distributors and their manufacturers and manufacturer representative agencies serving the PHCP & PVF channel. Serving wholesaler-distributors and their supply chain partners in the plumbing-heating-cooling-piping (PHCP) and industrial pipe-valve-fitting (PVF) industry, ASA is a one-stop-shop for legislative and regulatory advocacy, ongoing business intelligence, employee training and education and peer-to-peer networking.

### **About IAPMO**

IAPMO was founded in 1926 by government officials in the US to protect public health and safety by developing the most progressive and technically advanced plumbing, mechanical and water efficiency codes in the world. A large part of IAPMO's work focuses on product testing for the industry. Our research and testing labs are capable of testing products to more than 400 standards and we provide testing to new plumbing products that enter the market every year. These include such devices as shower heads, faucets, and water filters. Our rigorous process includes following the criteria of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

### **About NSF**

NSF is an independent, not-for-profit organization founded in 1944 in Ann Arbor, MI that develops consensus national standards, provides product inspection, testing and certification, auditing, education, and related services in public health and safety. The core purpose of NSF is to "protect and improve human and environmental health." NSF has a long history of working with the EPA, FDA, USDA, CDC, and health related governmental entities at the state and local levels, as well as international bodies. NSF is a Collaborating Centre of the World Health Organization for Food Safety, Water Quality, and Indoor Environment. NSF/ANSI 53 and NSF/ANSI 58, American National Standards developed by NSF, allow for the certification of some point of use and point of entry drinking water treatment units to reduce PFOA and PFOS in drinking water to below the 70 part per trillion health advisory level set by the EPA.

### **About WQA**

WQA is a not-for-profit trade association representing the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment manufacturers industry with over 2,700 members worldwide. Since its creation in 1974, WQA has worked tirelessly to improve water quality through sustainable technologies and services. Our members are manufacturers, dealers, and distributors who specialize in point-of-use (POU) and point-of-entry (POE) water filtration systems, which treat water at the tap or entry point of a home or building. WQA also operates an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited testing and certification laboratory that certifies water filtration products to nationally accepted industry standards for contaminant removal.