



March 3, 2023

The Honorable Jay Livingstone
Massachusetts House of Representatives
State House, Room 472
Boston, MA 02133-1000

RE: MA HD 3249 – An Act for the establishment of a voucher program for home water filtration equipment

Dear Representative Jay Livingstone,

On behalf of the Water Quality Association (WQA), American Supply Association (ASA), the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), and NSF, we are writing to you in support of HD 3249. Providing vouchers for point-of-use (POU) water filtration systems is an important step in mitigating exposure to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water and embodies actions that policymakers can take to protect drinking water supplies and the health and safety of residents in Massachusetts.

Our organizations would like to serve as a technical resource, as we urge you to make improvements to the bill that increases consumer confidence and helps ensure the efficacy of these products. First, we recommend that this legislation be amended to **require third-party certification of drinking water treatment devices, fixtures, and components**. Many water filtration systems claim to improve drinking water quality. However, not all products serve the same purpose; some remove only aesthetic impurities while others are certified to reduce the presence of harmful contaminants. Having an independent third-party certification mark on a product communicates compliance with voluntary and consensus performance standards will help eliminate concerns about the purchase and installation of non-complying products. Moreover, there are several organizations that provide third-party certification.

Additionally, we recommend that this legislation be amended to specifically **reference the appropriate NSF/American National Standards Institute (NSF/ANSI) standards for drinking water treatment devices, including filters, fixtures, and components**. There are currently no federal regulations establishing minimum requirements for the safety and performance of water filtration systems. However, these national standards have been developed with the participation of interested and affected stakeholders including manufacturers, non-profits, advocacy organizations, representatives of government (such as the EPA), and academia. Currently, there are two existing standards for certified water filtration systems that offer elective claims to reduce either total PFAS or individual specified PFAS; NSF/ANSI 53: *Drinking Water Treatment Units – Health Effects* and NSF/ANSI 58: *Reverse Osmosis Drinking Water Treatment Systems*. These standards were recently updated to allow for the verification that certified water filtration systems reduce either total PFAS to a cumulative 20 ppt, or certain



individual PFAS to specified values. Consistent with the language of HD 3249, total PFAS reduction is measured by the reduction of a mixture of seven PFAS compounds made up of PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, PFHpA, PFBS, and PFDA. We would note it is important to specify that drinking water filters certified to either of these standards include a claim for reduction of PFAS.

We appreciate your consideration of these changes and have included draft legislative language below. Our organizations would welcome any opportunity to collaborate with you on this vital water quality legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions surrounding water treatment. We would be happy to meet with you.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Pollack, Director of Government Affairs, WQA
Stephen Rossi, Director of Government Affairs, ASA
Jim Scarborough, Director of Government Relations, IAPMO
Harold Chase, Director of Government Affairs, NSF

Draft Legislative Language

Our organizations support HD 3249 with the request that lines 12 – 15, Section (8G)(a)(4) be amended, and to read as follows:

(4) For purposes of this section, “PFAS filtration equipment” shall mean **a third-party certified** point-of-use filtration devices installed into a water line and replacement filters for such devices. ~~National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certification of PFAS filtration equipment~~ The following is required for it to be eligible for a voucher.

(i) A third-party certified point-of-use filtration device must be certified by an independent certification body accredited to ISO 17065 by an entity domiciled in the United States that is a signatory to the International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (IAF MLA), such as the Water Quality Association, NSF International, and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials; and

(ii) NSF/ANSI 53: Drinking Water Treatment Units – Health Effects certified including a claim for reduction of PFAS; or

(iii) NSF/ANSI 58: Reverse Osmosis Drinking Water Treatment Systems certified including a claim for reduction of PFAS.



About WQA

WQA is a not-for-profit trade association representing the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry with over 2,500 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.

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 Medical Device Safety. 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 the levels of specified contaminants in drinking water including lead.