



January 31, 2023

The Honorable Vaughn M. Stewart III
Maryland House of Representatives
6 Bladen St, Lowe House Office Building, Room 220
Annapolis, MD 21401-1912

RE: HB 11 – Private Well Safety Act of 2023

Dear Representative Vaughn Stewart,

On behalf of the Water Quality Association (WQA), a not-for-profit trade association representing the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry, and our 35 members in the state of Maryland, we want to thank you for your sponsorship of HB 11 – the Private Well Safety Act of 2023. This bill embodies the actions that policymakers can take to protect drinking supplies and the health and safety of residents relying on private wells.

Private wells are an important source of drinking water for many Marylanders, particularly in rural areas. However, these wells are not subject to the same regulatory oversight as public water systems, and as a result, many residents may unknowingly consume contaminated drinking water. Testing and monitoring for drinking water are the first steps, but, as residents become aware of health-based contaminants, many will look to the state to identify proper remediation and mitigation options. To further support the efforts outlined in the bill, our association strongly recommends expanding the bill language to include funding opportunities for third-party certified water treatment systems for private well owners that can help remediate these contaminants at the point of consumption and be deployed immediately.

Point-of-use (POU) and point-of-entry (POE) water treatment systems are cost-effective final barrier technologies that are already being utilized by many individuals, households, and businesses to improve their drinking water quality. Many of these filtration systems can be third-party certified to remove Arsenic, Nitrates, Manganese, and other contaminants that can be found in groundwater and private wells. Moreover, guidance by the U.S. EPA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asserts the importance of these systems in mitigating drinking water contaminants in well water.^{1,2} Additionally, it is important to have the bill reference third-party certification to specific national standards, so grants are used on products that have been tested and proven to remove harmful drinking water contaminants.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/private/wells/treatment.html>

² https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-09/documents/guide_smallsystems_pou-poe_june6-2006.pdf





We strongly support the intent of HB 11 – the Private Well Safety Act of 2023 and appreciate the opportunity to collaborate on this vital water quality legislation. We would be happy to work with you and others to help draft legislative language and answer questions surrounding water treatment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Pollack".

Jeremy Pollack,
Director of Government Affairs
Water Quality Association

CC: Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee

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.



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