March 6, 2023

The Honorable Joan B. Lovely, Assistant Majority Leader
Massachusetts Senate
24 Beacon Street
Room 413-D
Boston, MA 02133
Joan.Lovely@masenate.gov

The Honorable Daniel R. Carey
Massachusetts House of Representatives
24 Beacon Street
Room 136
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: SD 696/HD 3392 – *An Act Ensuring Safe Drinking Water in Schools***

Dear Senator Lovely and Representative Carey,

The American Supply Association (ASA), the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), NSF, and the Water Quality Association (WQA) would like to thank you for introducing SD 696/HD 3392, *An Act Ensuring Safe Drinking Water in Schools*. Your bills are especially timely during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and will further Massachusetts' efforts to make the Commonwealth's schools safer for everyone.

We are especially pleased you have included language specific to the type of certifications that point-of-use (POU) filters must hold in order to be recognized by this law, NSF/ANSI 53 and NSF/ANSI 42. However, our associations recommend expanding the bill language to also include NSF/ANSI 58 for Reverse Osmosis (RO) systems, this will allow schools to have additional options to remediate lead and other health-based contaminants. Additionally, we recommend a revision to the definition of "*Elevated lead level"* to 5 parts per billion (ppb). Although there is no "safe" level of lead, water filtration systems certified to NSF/ANSI standards for lead reduction have been verified to reduce lead to 5ppb or less. Furthermore, to align the bill language on "lead-free" fixtures we urge the inclusion of NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 for lead-free compliance and material safety. Incorporating these revisions to the bill language will help ensure that the bill's intentions align with what is technologically feasible.

Requiring third-party certification of drinking water treatment devices, fixtures, and components is very important as 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, improves consumer confidence, and helps eliminate concerns about the purchase and installation of non-complying products.

There are currently no federal regulations establishing minimum requirements for the safety and performance of water filtration systems. However, there are voluntary consensus standards that are continually being updated to address emerging threats. When product requirements related to water treatment technologies or drinking water system components are placed into legislation, referencing the appropriate NSF/ANSI standard(s) and third-party certification requirements is vital in verifying these products work as intended.

We strongly support SD 696/HD 3392 and appreciate the opportunity to collaborate on this vital water quality legislation. We are available to work with you and others to answer questions surrounding water treatment.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Rossi, Vice President of Advocacy, ASA
Peter Kelly, Regional Field Director, IAPMO
Harold Chase, Director of Government Affairs, NSF
Jeremy Pollack, Director of Government Affairs, 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 International**

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.

**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.