



October 19, 2022

The Honorable Gene Yaw
Chair
Senate Committee on Environmental Resources & Energy Pennsylvania Senate
501 North 3rd St.
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Sent via email to: eyaw@pasen.gov

Re: Senate Bill 1125

Dear Chair Yaw:

The Association of Water Technologies (AWT) is an international organization representing over 500 companies, several of which are domiciled in Pennsylvania. Our members specialize in applying water treatments for industrial and commercial cooling and heating systems. We equip water treaters with the tools and skills they need to deliver the highest quality service to clients—helping them to preserve and support the personal health and safety of building occupants. Bottomline, AWT aspires to be a significant force in the water treatment industry.

We are writing to you regarding Senate Bill 1125, "An Act Concerning Legionnaires' Disease". We appreciate the inclusion of the most recent version of ASHRAE's Standard 188, Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems, in the proposed requirements for water management plans in public buildings. Managing water systems to minimize the risk of contamination from *Legionella* is essential.

We also appreciate the reference to ASHRAE Guideline 12-2020, Managing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water Systems, which provides detailed guidance for water management program teams to develop the necessary elements of an effective water management plan. Proper management and maintenance of building water systems can be a particularly important aspect of reopening buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic, which are sometimes overlooked. ASHRAE formed an Epidemic Task Force in 2020 to address the COVID-19 pandemic in building-related matters and has developed guidance on building reopening related to ventilation, filtration, air cleaning, and water systems for several building types and operational conditions. Water systems are specifically included in ASHRAE's guidance to minimize the risk of legionellosis associated with water systems after building reopening. Additional guidance, answers to frequently asked questions, and other resources on the coronavirus and the built environment can be found at www.ashrae.org/covid19.

Again, we support the inclusion of ASHRAE Standard 188 and Guideline 12-2020 in this bill. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff email michaelh@mcgowaninsgrp.com

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for working to ensure the health and well-being of building occupants.

Sincerely,

Mike

Michael J. Highum, CPCU
Chair, Regulatory & Legislative Committee
Association of Water Technologies