



**LOCAL BILL MC PG 101-17:
WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION – SERVICE RATES**

LOCAL BILL HEARING

DECEMBER 7, 2016

OPPOSE

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce ("MCCC") **opposes MC PG 104-17**, which authorizes the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to establish certain customer classes for certain service rates or charges; requires that service rates for each customer class shall be chargeable against certain properties and shall be uniform for a given class throughout the Washington Suburban Sanitary District; authorizes the minimum or ready to serve charge to include a certain component; alters the methods by which the minimum or ready to serve charge and the service charge for water used may be based; and generally relating to the service rates of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

WSSC has embarked on the necessary process of reviewing its rate structure. This is important to generate the revenue needed to maintain a 21st century utility. We believe, however, that it is premature to assume that the stakeholder group will recommend charging different rates for different classes of customers. Based on information we have seen, some of the options create out of proportion burdens for small businesses. Therefore, we remain concerned that granting WSSC this latitude at this juncture is not necessary and is not in the best interest of members of the non-residential community.

As our colleagues at AOBA have pointed out, "WSSC has historically applied one rate system to all customers, as is also the case with water systems served by Baltimore City, and Arlington, Anne Arundel, Fairfax and Howard counties, and the cities of Alexandria and Frederick.

Authorizing the WSSC to adopt rates based on classes of customers could cause significant cost shifts among types of customers and result in substantial rate increases for small businesses."

We agree with the AOBA testimony. We encourage WSSC to continue the stakeholder process to identify the new way forward at which point necessary legislative changes should be discussed.

For these reasons, we request an **unfavorable report on MC PG 104-17**.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

Gigi Godwin, President and CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
51 Monroe Street, Suite 1800 Rockville, MD 20850
301-738-0015
www.montgomerycountychamber.com