



August 25, 2026

The Honorable Patrick Stefano
Chair
Senate Consumer Protection &
Professional Licensure
Senate Box 203032
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3032

The Honorable Lisa Boscola
Chair
Senate Consumer Protection &
Professional Licensure
Senate Box 203018
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3018

RE: House Bill 2302 – State Licensing of Water Well Drillers

Dear Chairs:

The Pennsylvania-Section, American Water Works Association (PA-AWWA) consists of 1,600 + members representing all classes of water utilities in Pennsylvania, including those PUC regulated, authorities, and municipalities, plus regulators, vendors, contractors, engineers, and others dedicated to promoting the health and welfare of Pennsylvania by providing affordable drinking water of superior quality and sufficient quantity. The Water Utility Council of PA-AWWA (WUC) includes representatives from the Berks County Water & Sewer Association (BCW&SA); National Association of Water Companies, Pennsylvania Chapter; Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association; Pennsylvania Rural Water Association; and Water Works Operators' Association of Pennsylvania.

The WUC **Supports** House Bill 2302, which passed the House, 114-87, on May 6, 2026, and was subsequently referred to the Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee on May 7, 2026.

House Bill 2302 (Takac-D) Establishes licensure for water, geothermal, geotechnical, and environmental well drillers under the State Board of Crane Operators.

This legislation would establish professional licensing criteria for private well drillers which would strengthen accountability within the industry; ensure industry construction and siting standards are upheld; and establish much-needed consumer protections.

Water wells are the primary source of drinking water for millions of Pennsylvanians. Yet, the Commonwealth is one of only two states to not enforce industry standards regarding well siting and construction. The proper siting and construction of private wells is critical for safeguarding water quality and protecting public health.

We are particularly supportive of House Bill 2302 because it would:

- Protect human health and safety as well as Pennsylvania's water resources.
- Utilize the Department of State's existing licensing mechanisms which reduces costs for the Commonwealth and the industry.
- Promote a process where the industry is heavily engaged to ensure the licensing process meets the needs and considerations of a diverse set of drillers.
- Establish licensing criteria that allows well drillers to choose either an expert or certified pathway to licensing that creates a flexible framework for workers within the industry to seek only the training and/or experience needed based on their specialty.
- Focus on existing industry standards without adding new regulations or permitting processes. In doing so, licensed drillers would be required to uphold existing industry standards related to siting and constructing wells in Pennsylvania.
- Establishes greater accountability within the industry by requiring companies to demonstrate bonding and liability coverage.
- Creates a more transparent pathway to employment in the drilling industry through continuing education and examination requirements.
- Establishes a legacy clause for a two-year period so that members of the industry can continue their work simply by demonstrating that they have worked in the industry for the appropriate years, have been licensed in another state, or have taken the appropriate exams through the National Ground Water Association or other certifying organization.
- Establishes ongoing (but non-overburdensome) education requirements for drillers to ensure that they are keeping up with regulatory requirements, industry best practices, and safety provisions.
- Requires drillers to submit appropriate reports (intent to drill, well completion, abandonment) to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as a requirement of licensing. Currently, a significant percentage of drillers do not comply with these statutory provisions.
- Strengthens consumer protections by ensuring transparent industry protocols.

The clear goal of this proposal is to bring a level of accountability to industry, safeguard Pennsylvanians' health, and safety, and ensure consumer protections are in place.

More than three million Pennsylvanians rely on approximately one million private wells for drinking water. Improperly constructed water wells can lead to poor water quality by providing pathways for bacteria and contaminants such as naturally occurring shallow methane gas migration into water supplies. Ensuring that water wells are constructed properly from the start will help to prevent water quality problems in the future.

The WUC supports House Bill 2302 because it is a pragmatic and much needed step forward in bringing this industry into the 21st century. The WUC respectfully requests your support and consideration of House Bill 2302.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Newhard
PA-AWWA



Bill Murray
BCW&SA



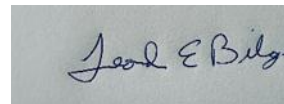
Jennie Shade
PMAA



Matthew Walborn
WWOAP



Joseph Falcone
PRWA



Leonard "Chip" Bilger
WUC Chairman



Larry Finnicum
NAWC-PA

CC: Senate Professional Licensure Committee
Senator Joe Pittman
Senator Kim Ward