

TO: Chairman Freeman, Chairman Miller, and members of the House Local Government Committee

FROM: Jennie Shade, Senior Director of Government Relations 

DATE: September 25, 2026

SUBJECT: Support of SB 1287 P.N. 1597

I am writing on behalf of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA), which represents nearly 700 municipal authorities across the Commonwealth serving over six million residents. These authorities provide essential public services including drinking water, wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and other community infrastructure projects. Collectively, these services protect public health, safeguard the environment, support economic development, and promote the overall well-being of Pennsylvania and its citizens.

PMAA **supports** SB 1287 P.N. 1597, which amends the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code to require proof of water service availability for subdivision and land development approval. Clarifying that proposed developments must identify a responsible water provider is a practical and constructive step that will improve coordination among developers, municipalities, and municipal authorities.

From our perspective, early-stage coordination is essential to orderly growth and sound infrastructure planning. Ensuring that water service is addressed upfront reduces uncertainty later in the development process and reinforces the importance of aligning land use decisions with available public infrastructure.

At the same time, we offer the following considerations based on the following resolution adopted as part of PMAA's 2026 advocacy platform, as the Commonwealth continues to evaluate policies related to high demand water use, including the data center industry:

Resolution 39-26

RESOLVED, That PMAA urge the General Assembly to consider water usage and the resiliency of community water and wastewater systems in any policy proposals designed to incentivize the growth of the data center industry in Pennsylvania.

While SB 1287 appropriately addresses the identification of a water service provider, it does not extend to evaluating the scale of water use or the potential impacts on system capacity and long-term resiliency. For certain types of development, particularly those with significant and continuous water demands, these factors

are important components of responsible planning.

As discussions around economic development incentives and large-scale industrial growth continue, we encourage consideration of policies that:

- Promote transparency around projected water usage and wastewater impacts
- Support coordination with municipal authorities regarding system capacity and infrastructure needs
- Recognize the importance of long-term water supply resiliency and sustainability
- Ensure that growth aligns with the ability of municipal authorities to continue providing safe and reliable service to existing customers.

On behalf of our members, we respectfully ask that you **support** SB 1287 P.N. 1597. We view it as a positive, targeted step within the broader planning framework and appreciate the Committee's efforts to improve the development review process.

We look forward to continued collaboration on policies that support both economic development and the long-term strength of Pennsylvania's water and wastewater infrastructure. In particular, we welcome opportunities to help ensure that infrastructure planning keeps pace with emerging high demand uses through proactive coordination and data-informed decision making.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. We also extend our appreciation to Senator Dawn Keefer for her leadership on the matter.