



**American Water Works
Association**

Dedicated to the World's Most Vital Resource



**ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES**

NACWA 



**Water Environment
Federation**
the water quality people®



NAWC
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF WATER COMPANIES

SINCE 1895

March 19, 2025

The Honorable Ed Markey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Markey and Congresswoman Schakowsky,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing drinking water and wastewater systems, along with other water sector stakeholders, we write to express our strong support for the Water Intelligence, Security, and Cyber Threat Protection Act (Water ISAC Threat Protection Act).

As you know, it is critically important that the nation's nearly 50,000 community drinking water systems and more than 16,000 wastewater treatment works provide uninterrupted service to Americans from coast to coast, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. But utility managers must do so in an environment of ever-expanding threats that include physical security weaknesses, extreme weather events, and cyberattacks that jeopardize utility operations.

Founded in 2002, WaterISAC is the only all-hazards security information resource specifically focused on the water and wastewater sector. As an independent non-profit organization, WaterISAC collects, analyzes, and disseminates actionable threat information to its drinking water and wastewater system members, while also offering guidance on risk mitigation tools, best practices, and response actions that contribute to an all-hazards resiliency posture.

WaterISAC receives no state or federal grant funding and therefore operates as a dues-based subscription service. Currently, only 640 water and wastewater systems are members of WaterISAC, equating to about one percent of all community drinking water systems. With additional resources, WaterISAC access could be broadened to include more of the nation's water systems, raising the sector's baseline level of preparedness by providing more utility managers with the tools they need to withstand natural, physical, and cyber threats.

The Water ISAC Threat Protection Act would expand WaterISAC participation by authorizing a targeted EPA program that would offset costs to water systems and treatment works associated with maintaining or initiating WaterISAC memberships. The program would also direct EPA to encourage eligible entities to participate in WaterISAC and cooperate with WaterISAC on

The Honorable Ed Markey
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Page 2 of 2

incident data collection and analysis of threats to the water sector.

As water utilities continue to experience an increase in cyber attacks, there are many examples of how WaterISAC has helped utilities maintain strong cyber and physical security. One way WaterISAC does this is by reporting on important vulnerabilities. For example, in January 2025, suspected Chinese threat actors were exploiting four vulnerabilities in Ivanti Cloud Services Appliances, and WaterISAC was able to share this information with the sector within 24 hours of CISA's and the FBI's advisory. In the past year, WaterISAC also helped provide support to mitigate threats to Arkansas City and Boston Water when they experienced ransomware attacks.

In January 2025, WaterISAC hosted a physical security webinar on the increasing drone threat to critical infrastructure. The webinar included a drone expert describing the drone threat landscape and a utility security manager who presented the security improvement project his utility was undertaking to enhance their security against drone incidents. The utility's presentation and practical no-cost/low-cost solutions for mitigating the risk of drones was extremely valuable to other utilities and numerous utilities reached out to WaterISAC asking to be connected to the utility that presented so they could learn from their peers.

Outside of the water sector, ISACs exist for other critical infrastructure, like energy, and Congress has previously recognized the value of sector participation in these ISACs. For example, the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-58) authorized a new Department of Energy program dedicated to expanding Electricity ISAC participation among the nation's electric utilities. Given the equal importance of ensuring water system preparedness, the Water ISAC Threat Protection Act would provide similar EPA support for water and wastewater system participation in WaterISAC's information sharing community.

Again, we express our strong support for the Water Intelligence, Security, and Cyber Threat Protection Act, and we greatly appreciate your leadership on this important legislation. We are eager to work with you to support its passage into law at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

American Water Works Association
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Association of Water Companies
Water Environment Federation