



AWWA New Jersey

American Water Works Association

**Statement of Mr. Michael Furrey, Chair on behalf of the American Water Works Association- New Jersey Section
Water Loss Audits A4415
Before the NJ Assembly Environment and Solid Waste
February 13, 2017**

Chairman Eustace and members of the Committee,

I am providing this written testimony on behalf of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) –NJ Section. AWWA-NJ welcomes this opportunity to speak to the drinking water issues that are before the committee today. My name is Michael Furrey, owner of Agra Environmental and Laboratory Services and current chair of the AWWA-NJ. AWWA is an international, nonprofit, scientific and educational association of professionals dedicated to safe drinking water. We have always supported drinking water regulations that are developed through a transparent process, are based on the best available science, and that provide meaningful public health protection in an affordable manner. AWWA-NJ is an association consisting of more than 1,200 NJ based operators, engineers, academics, and other allied water and wastewater professionals. We are the leading authority in drinking water issues throughout the State of New Jersey

NJAWWA supports the passage of A4415. There are however, two points that the Section feels needs to be clarified. The first point pertains to training. Utility staffs need to be trained in the correct method and from utility to utility there needs to be a consistent training framework on how to complete the audit and how to interpret the results of the audit in order for utilities to implement effective measures to reduce Non Revenue Water (NRW), especially if the utilities NRW results will be compared to each other on a public website as required by the Bill. As of this time

neither a pool of competent trainers nor tried and tested training materials exists. These would have to be developed and tested before implementation.

The second pertains to the process by which Level One Validators (LOV) would be selected and certified. At this time, neither a pool of certified validators nor a certification process, including educational and experience requirements for selecting LOV exists.

Also, the language in the Bill is not clear on whether the trainers and validators would be NJDEP employees or consultants.

Currently, only the members of the AWWA Water Loss Control Committee, who developed the M36 manual and the free water audit software, have intimate knowledge of how the software was developed and of the makeup of the algorithms utilized to deliver the outputs of the model.

In order to evaluate these issues and needs, the NJAWWA Section recommends that the requirement for an advisory committee to the NJDEP be included in the Bill, which would include but would not be limited to members of the regulated community and NJDEP.